

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 45

TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2013

www.saipantribune.com

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OPINION METER

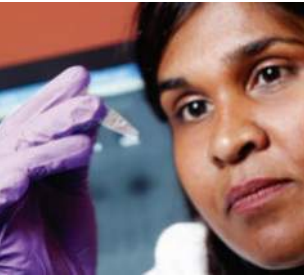
This week's poll:

Do you support the request for a five-year extension of the transition period for the CW1 program for foreign workers?

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Scientists say a baby born with HIV has apparently been cured.

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Bold plans to reduce govt size

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



IN NEED OF RESTORATION

Visiting aircraft recovery specialist Capt. Paul H. Cooper, left, an Amelia Earhart researcher on Saipan, measures the depth of a concrete structure believed to be a solitary confinement chamber that is part of the old Japanese jail complex in Garapan while NMI Council for the Humanities executive director Scott Russell, center, and GPPC Inc. steel man Arnel Pingol, right, look on Friday afternoon. Cooper and CNMI historian Sam McPhetres said structures like this one need to be stabilized and preserved, including the removal of trees that are destabilizing the Japanese jail complex structure, for their historic significance.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Unfinished 'castle' near airport has a new owner

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An unfinished castle-shaped hotel near the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport will have another chance at completion after a Korean group of investors called PDI Capital Group Ltd. bought it from its previous owners.

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Gov. Eloy S. Inos gave a rundown yesterday of his administration's plans to reduce government spending and size, remove redundancy, and improve efficiency. That includes merging the Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Agency, privatizing parks maintenance, and turning over the operation of the Oleai Sports Complex from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to an entity such as the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, among others.

Gov't spending cuts include merging Labor-WIA, privatizing parks maintenance, turning over Oleai Sports Complex operations to NMASA

The list also includes not filling vacant positions deemed unnecessary or not critical.

The governor shared these after he and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider met with Cabinet members yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

Some lawmakers interviewed later said they support the administration's

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One-armed sailor makes Saipan pit stop in seven-year world tour



Japanese sailor Akio Yonago, right, confers with Japanese-English translator Yokoyama Masahiro, left, while Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) look on in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Akio Yonago, a 65-year-old Japanese sailor, has proven that losing an arm is no match to perseverance, accomplishing the incredible feat of traveling around the world in seven years using a 36-foot sailboat. Yonago is making a stop on Saipan before returning to his homeland of

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MORE INFO

► CHCC board urged to delay decision in Babauta's contract.

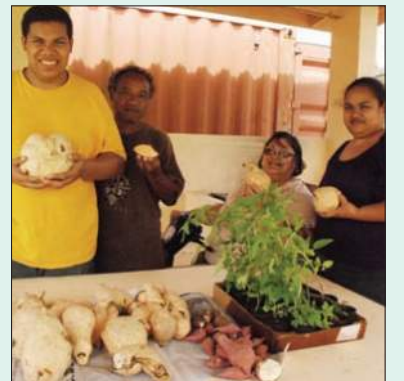
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► CLI backyard garden yields bumper crop.

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Local

CHCC board urged to delay decision in Babauta's contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The decision whether to retain Juan N. Babauta as chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has been put on hold after Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked the board to hold back on any action on the CEO's fate.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that all board members agreed to delay any decision on the matter pursuant to the request of the new administration.

The board was supposed to decide on Babauta's employment contract on Thursday, March 7. The board's special panel was also set to meet today, March 5,

to assess the result of a survey among hospital employees regarding the CEO's performance.

Torres said that Thursday's meeting will be suspended until further notice, including today's scheduled meeting of the special committee.

He also disclosed that committee chair Pedro Dela Cruz cannot fly to Saipan from Rota

due to mechanical problems with the aircraft.

Saipan Tribune learned that corporation board members met with Inos last week during which the governor made the request to delay the decision on Babauta's contract.

According to Torres, the governor made the request so that Babauta could focus on the

scheduled exit of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps team on March 12.

However, Torres said the "work and processes for the CEO's performance evaluation" will continue as soon as Dela Cruz arrives from Rota.

He said the employees' survey forms, which are just one of the many factors that will affect the board's decision, have already been submitted but have yet to be reviewed.

'Improper conduct'

Meantime, the hospital's COO and chief financial officer, Esther Muña, has accused Torres of "improper conduct."

Torres reportedly asked Muña on Feb. 8 to submit within that day several documents and information about the corporation for a planned "oversight review" of the CFO's office.

Muña was also reportedly advised by Torres to be prepared to answer questions about loans made with MPLT and to prepare reports on the unpaid annual leaves of employees, new hires, and personnel who received salary adjustments, among others.

Muña, who is the corporation's chief operating officer and chief financial officer, reportedly told Torres to "stop the harassment" as she doesn't deserve it.

Saipan Tribune learned that Muna's complaint against Torres was submitted to the governor and the Office of the Attorney General, both of which have yet to respond to requests for comment yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Muña received a message from the governor's legal counsel,

James R. Stump, that such conduct is both improper and unwarranted. In the same communication, Stump reportedly told Muña that "board members are only a policymaking board advising the CEO" and that it has no authority over the COO.

Torres' response

Torres pointed out, however, that he has been asking Muña to provide the board with several documents since January but she has yet to submit any.

"This started the request for documents/information to Esther. After receiving no responsive response from her I sent out reminders. There was no excuse to fail to provide monthly financial statement since these are required by Public Law 16-51, the law establishing the corporation," said Torres, showing his email request to the COO dated Jan. 31.

"Esther, please provide me a monthly statement/report of income and expenditure for the period beginning Oct. 1, 2012, to the present. In addition, provide me a listing of all new hires for the period as above, which list shall include the name, position, salary, and justification for each such hire. Include current employees who received salary increases for the period. Lastly, provide me a list of cost cutting/saving initiatives that were implemented in [fiscal year] 2012 and the amount cut and/or saved," stated Torres' email to Muña in January, adding that he plans to call for a board meeting the following week so he would like to have these information and materials before the meeting.

Torres said he reminded Muña of his request on Feb. 8.



CAR CRASH

Traffic officers responded to a car crash on Feb. 23 in front of Pretty Market along Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) in Garapan. Police investigation showed that a silver Hyundai Sonata was traveling south on Middle Road when it went off the roadway in front of Pretty Market. The Sonata struck the rear portion of a white Toyota Matrix that was in the parking lot waiting to exit. The Sonata also hit a vegetable stand of the Saipan Fresh Market and a parked Toyota 4 Runner. No one was reported injured. Investigators ruled out alcohol in the case. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

PSS: Unclear provisions in refund bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

On behalf of the islands' public schools, the Board of Education has expressed its support for a pending bill that proposes to hasten the release of refunds of Retirement Fund members' contributions but cited some unclear provisions that need to be clarified.

House Bill 18-12, which recently passed the House, proposes to amend Public Law 17-82 (or the refund law) to clarify some provisions necessary to expedite the refunds and prevent any further frustration of the process.

BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero said that several of the points addressed in HB 18-12 are a concern for PSS.

For example, PSS was initially unclear as to when allotments to the Fund from the defined benefit plan members should cease. "With the clarified points under Section 203(a), it is now

clear that PSS may cease allotments upon submission to NMIRF of a DB members' 'request to terminate,'" said Guerrero in his Feb. 26 letter to the Legislature.

According to Guerrero, clarifying this section now allows PSS to better respond to employees' questions as to when they can stop having paycheck deductions for both Social Security and NMIRF plan contributions when they have already submitted forms indicating their wish to terminate their plans.

Guerrero said the BOE remains concerned about the bill's Section 205, which he said needs further explanation.

"Here, it is unclear as to whether a DC member who is not separating from government employment is allowed to withdraw the funds. In addition, no timeframe was provided for DC members with respect to how long it will take the process a DC withdrawal request," said

Guerrero.

"HB 18-12 provides additional support and improvement to PL 17-82 and on the whole, PSS is in full support of this bill. However, PSS would like to see just a few more additions to HB 18-12 so that, once passed, no more changes to PL 17-82 will need to be made," he added.

House Bill 18-12 seeks to amend Public Law 17-82 to expedite the refund of members' contributions and reset timelines. Among the key provisions of the bill is its clarification of when applicant members should be refunded their employee contributions, now within 30 days of "submission" rather than within 30 days of "approval" as stated in PL 17-82.

The bill also increases the percentage of the contribution that can be initially refunded—from the current 25 percent to 50 percent. Only about 125 of 1,700 applications received got 25 percent of their employee contributions.



Banks ordered to release govt funds to pay land compensation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court granted Friday 80-year-old Luisa Borja Quitugua's request for the court to order banks to release funds belonging to the CNMI government so that she could be paid \$77,137 plus interest for her land compensation claim.

The Inos administration, however, has vowed to challenge Associate Judge David A. Wiseman's writ of execution against government funds and accounts.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday, press secretary Angel A. Demapan stated that as a result of Wiseman's order, the Department of Fi-

nance is being prevented from using any and all government funds within its control.

Demapan said the Inos administration, through the Office of the Attorney General, plans to "vigorously litigate against this order" because courts should not be allowed to freeze Capital Improvement Projects monies and other federal funds as well as trust funds for a local matter that has nothing to do with federal and trust monies.

Demapan said that Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider "will do all that they can within their authority to prevent this senseless and ill-timed action from the impending harm to our community."

"In addition, all efforts will

be made to prevent a halt to the economic progress that has been made to move the CNMI toward economic recovery and prosperity," Demapan added.

For 28 years now, Quitugua has been seeking compensation from the government for the taking of her land in As Teo. A public road was built on her property.

In 2005, the Superior Court entered a final judgment granting Quitugua \$77,137 plus applicable interest. It took the government seven years or until November 2012 to pay Quitugua just \$10,000.

On Jan. 31, 2012, Quitugua

asked the court for a writ of execution, seeking from the government all funds it has in banks in the CNMI to satisfy the full amount.

In his order issued Friday, Wiseman said the judgment amount remains outstanding and that the CNMI government remains liable to Quitugua for the total amount plus interest.

Wiseman said the court would overstep its constitutional authority if it were to order the Legislature to appropriate funds for a certain purpose, or to compel government payments without appropriation.

In Quitugua's case, Wiseman

said, the Legislature, in the form of Public Law 13-17, appropriated funds for the purpose of discharging outstanding land compensation claims against the Commonwealth, explicitly stating that the purpose of the act is to compensate such claims.

P.L. 13-17 authorizes the Marianas Public Land Authority, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Development Authority, to borrow up to \$40 million to settle and discharge outstanding land compensation claims against the Commonwealth.

Because P.L. 13-17 appropriated funds for this purpose, Wiseman said the court can now compel government payments.

"It is based on this authority that the court hereby grants Luisa

B. Quitugua's request for a writ of execution," the judge said.

Wiseman ordered the Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, and First Hawaiian Bank to promptly release and deliver to Quitugua's lawyer, F. Matthew Smith's law office, the funds they are holding that belong to the CNMI government.

Wiseman said any funds received by Quitugua shall be held in Smith's trust account and shall not be disbursed without a court order.

"A report shall be made to the court within 48 hours of obtaining any funds under this writ. Upon receiving such report, the court shall then determine the amount, including applicable interest, due to [Quitugua]," the judge said.

Female cop gets 3-day sentence for assault

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A policewoman who assaulted the current wife of her father pleaded guilty Wednesday last week and was slapped with a three-day prison term.

Police officer Jasmine M. King, also known as Jasmine Marie King Kaipat, pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. The remaining charge of disturbing the peace was dropped.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced King to a year in prison, all suspended except for three days with credit for 20 hours of time served.

King was ordered to report to the Department of Corrections last Friday. She was expected to be released from prison yesterday.

King will be placed on probation for one year and was required to perform 50 hours of community service and attend anger management classes.

King was ordered to pay for the victim's medical expenses resulting from the assault.

She was also directed to pay a

\$200 fine and \$100 probation fee.

According to the plea deal, King pulled the victim's hair, pulled her to the ground, and wrestled with her on July 11, 2012.

At a preliminary hearing on July 12, 2012, a police officer testified that King pushed and repeatedly punched the victim at a house in Dandan.

The officer did not indicate the reason for the assault.

When King's father tried to stop her, King's common-law husband, Roy Roger Ayuyu Kaipat, allegedly punched the father then fled the scene.

The father was taken to the hospital due to a dislocated left shoulder.

When the incident happened, King and Kaipat were reportedly active police officers.

The Department of Public Safety confirmed yesterday that King and Kaipat are back as active police officers. It was not clear yet when they got back their jobs at DPS.

Kaipat's jury trial will be on March 11, 2013. He is charged with aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Man pleads not guilty to charge of receiving stolen fishing rod

A 53-year-old man pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges that he received a stolen electric fishing rod that belonged to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Thomas Coleman, through counsel Michael Evangelista who showed for limited appearance for another lawyer, waived reading of the information and advisement of his constitutional rights.

Coleman pleaded not guilty to an information charging him with one count of receiving stolen property.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja set a status conference for April 2, 2013.

According to the information, between Dec. 19, 2011 and Dec. 11, 2012 on Saipan, Coleman purposely received or retained a stolen property—an electric fishing rod belonging to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

No other details were provided in the charging document.

In January 2012, the Department of Public Safety disclosed that the Division of Fish and Wildlife was burglarized twice over a weekend and that an estimated \$20,000 worth of items were stolen.

Among the stolen items were three fishing rods. (Ferdie de la Torre)

» Inos administration vows to 'vigorously challenge' court order



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'Fitial left Saipan a day after resigning'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former governor Benign R. Fitial left Saipan during the early morning hours of Feb. 21, a day after resigning from office.

Capital Hill sources said Fitial is now in California. Fitial has property in San Diego.

The new governor, Eloy S. Inos, has not spoken with his predecessor after being sworn into office on Feb. 20.

Inos said he last saw and talked to Fitial when the latter walked to his office when he was still lieutenant governor around 9:40am on Feb. 20. That was the time when Fitial handed his resignation letter to Inos.

Inos was sworn in as governor some four hours after Fitial's resignation.

Fitial stepped down days ahead of his impeachment trial in the Senate on March 7. The House of Representatives impeached Fitial on 18 charges of

corruption, felony and neglect of duty.

Yesterday, former governor Froilan Tenorio, who testified against impeaching Fitial before the House of Representatives on Feb. 11, said he knew Fitial left the day after resigning.

"The reason I knew that he left the island was because that same day, Juan Tenorio, from bowling, he took his wife up to the airport because she was also leaving on this flight. But if not for that I wouldn't know he left the next

day," Tenorio told reporters on Capital Hill yesterday.

He said he has not seen or talked to Fitial since.

Fitial cited health reasons for stepping down. He said he was ready to fight the impeachment trial.

Tenorio told House members during its Feb. 11 session when they voted on 13 of 18 articles of impeachment against Fitial that the attempt to impeach Fitial "is a misguided use of a raw political power that will bring shame to the Commonwealth and negatively affect our democracy for years to come."

Tenorio, also a former House speaker, said it was his own initiative to testify against Fitial's impeachment.

"Personally I was just trying to protect the Office of the Governor. I don't want to make it so easy for the Legislature to be impeaching governors, especially in the future, so that's the reason why I went and said something," he said.

Tenorio said he has not met with the new governor.

"But I like to say that I think he [Inos] should show the people that he's different from the former governor," he said.

The former governor also said he is not giving up on his proposal in the

17th Legislature to allow casino operations on Saipan. He said the only reason he ran for representative was to legalize casino operations on Saipan to help the NMI Retirement Fund.

He said he gave copies of his proposed legislation to current House members and plans to meet with them. Tenorio reiterated that legalizing casinos on Saipan is the only one that can immediately fund the dying pension agency, which he said needs at least \$50 million a year for its members.

"Until this weekend I thought they [House members] were only suspicious about the [former] governor [Fitial] but I found out that they were also suspicious of me, that I was pushing for a casino because I have an investor I was associated with. Let me tell you. I don't know anybody. I'm not doing anything about the casino because I'm trying to help somebody," he added.

CASTLE

From Page 1

A simple ceremony will be held at the hotel site on Friday for the new owners to present their project plans, Saipan-based representatives of PDI Capital said yesterday.

The hotel will be renamed "Forest Hill Hotel," and will maintain its castle shape.

The first phase of the two-phase project, estimated at \$10 million, includes completing the construction of the hotel, which will have over 70 rooms and will include a swimming pool. It sits on a private land. Construction is expected to begin in July.

The hotel's construction was put to a screeching halt reportedly because of funding issues.

With hotel occupancy reaching record high in years, the CNMI's tourism industry is in need of additional hotel rooms and "Forest Hill Hotel's" completion could help meet that need.

Air Force cuts aviation support at public events

WASHINGTON—In the wake of "sequester" cuts, the U.S. Air Force leadership has cancelled all aviation support to public events for at least the remainder of the fiscal year and is standing down the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team to save flying hours to support readiness needs.

Effective March 1, active-duty, Reserve and Guard units will cease all aviation support to the public. This includes the cancellation of support to all air shows, tradeshow, flyovers

(including funerals and military graduations), orientation flights, heritage flights, F-22 demonstration flights and open houses, unless the event includes only local static assets.

Additionally, the Air Force will cancel the Thunderbirds' entire 2013 season beginning April 1.

The Thunderbirds and Heritage Flight crews will complete their certification procedures for safely flying aerial demonstrations in case the budget allows resumption of scheduled events in

2013, but and the Air Force will cease participation in Heritage flights following certification.

The Air Force will reduce flying hours by as much as 18 percent—approximately 203,000 hours—and impacts will be felt across the service and directly affect operational and training missions.

"While we will protect flying operations in Afghanistan and other contingency areas, nuclear deterrence and initial flight training, roughly two-thirds of our active-duty combat Air Force units will curtail home station training," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III. (USAF)

SAILOR

From Page 1

Japan, which he left in May 2006 to sail around the world.

"He wants to prove there are things you can still accomplish even if you're missing an arm," said Japanese-English interpreter Yokoyama Masahiro.

Yonago made a courtesy visit to Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill.

Accompanying Yonago were Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan), former CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio, former represen-

tative Karl Reyes, and Marianas Visitors Authority's Judy Torres.

Through Masahiro, Yonago shared his experiences, his goal, and his planned two-month stay on Saipan before returning to Osaka, Japan.

Reyes said that Yonago used his teeth, feet, and other part of his body to sail his boat and overcome difficulties during a journey that has drawn international attention.

Yonago's sailboat is called *Emu II*, aptly named after a flightless bird that can travel great distances at a fast, economical trot.

Yonago left Osaka in May 2006 and sailed to San Francisco and other ports

in California, before heading out to Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Columbia, and Jamaica.

From there, he sailed to France, Spain, Portugal, Brazil, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, Kenya, Seychelles, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea.

It was in Papua New Guinea that three men boarded Yonago's boat and robbed him of some boat parts. Reyes said the media thought he was robbed by pirates, causing a frenzy in Japan.

Yonago lost his hand in a fishing accident in Russia when he was only 23 years old, Masahiro said. Yonago lost his entire left arm because of infection,

but not his will.

In 1995, he bought his sailboat and started figuring out how he could sail solo by using his one arm, teeth, and legs.

He planned to sail alone from France to Japan, and show everyone that a singlehanded sailor could accomplish the feat.

Yonago also wanted to prove this to the Japanese government, which had refused to issue him a sailing license.

The Japanese sailor challenged the government in court, arguing that he had already proven that he could sail even with one hand or arm. In 2000, he was granted an official sailing license.

BOLD

From Page 1

proposals.

House Speaker Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said these proposals will reduce the size of government in the long run. He cited his inaugural address where he mentioned that 80 percent of the government's budget goes to personnel costs, which he said is "top heavy" and should be reduced to 60 or 70 percent.

Inos said many of these specific plans are likely to be implemented in fiscal year 2014 starting on Oct. 1, so that they will be embedded in the administration's proposed budget.

The administration has until April 1 to submit its proposed \$114 million fiscal year 2014 budget to the Legislature.

However, transferring the operations and management of the Oleai Sports Complex from DCCA to NMASA or another non-government entity could happen within the current fiscal year, Inos said.

This change was one of the recommendations of an independent 2010 desk audit on DCCA that was never implemented by the previous administration.

The Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc., which did the desk audit on DCCA and the Department of Public Safety, said both departments are overstaffed and have employees with overlapping functions.

It specifically recommended, among

other things, moving the Division of Sports and Recreation functions to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), who is also president of the Northern Marianas Athletics, believes that NMASA will be able to better run the Oleai Sports Complex, as this is already provided for in a law that has never been implemented.

"It's about time this is done. The previous administration did not heed the recommendation of that desk audit paid for by the federal government. I am 100 percent in support of removing the operation and management of the sports complex from DCCA to NMASA. NMASA can also go out and seek funding such as from private donors. But there has to be a gradual transition," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Priorities

The Inos administration seeks to prioritize healthcare, utilities, the NMI Retirement Fund, and the Public School System, as well as tourism to help grow the economy.

"We've got several areas that we need to really address. A lot of it has to do with programs that have been established for the longest time and we need to revisit these programs and see if they're still relevant, see if the resources are being used to address those key areas. Are there any waste, duplication, inefficiencies and so forth? We are going to have to readjust the mission so that with the limited resources

that we have, we will concentrate the application of those limited resources to identified priorities," he added.

The need to spread out limited funds is compounded by the negative impact on the CNMI of the so-called federal sequestration—a series of automatic, across-the-board cuts to U.S. government agencies totaling \$1.2 trillion over 10 years that began on March 1.

Among the specific plans Inos cited to better use the CNMI's limited resources is privatizing the government function of maintaining parks throughout the islands.

"Not only do we have issues with respect to manpower, equipment, and so forth, there's just not enough funding," Inos said. "The plan is to look at maybe privatizing those types of services so there's the added benefit. We got a sustainable program, a contractor that does it Monday to Sunday...to make sure they collect the trash."

Inos said the government appreciates the work of volunteers who clean up roadways, beaches, and tourist sites but it is separate from having an agency or contractor that will be responsible for maintaining parks.

"That's one way to trim down the cost for the government. We won't have any burden for employee related expenses like contributions for the Retirement Fund. We plan to look into that and we're going to crank that idea into the budget," he said.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said government personnel could either be reassigned to other agencies

"or have the contractor absorb those employees."

"Any savings that we can get from that may be used to cushion the impact of reduced federal funding," he added.

Consolidating agencies and programs is also another area to cut costs and improve efficiency.

Inos said the Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Agency "share the same mission, goal...it's for the employment of eligible U.S. individuals."

"We plan to merge those two agencies and hopefully we'll have some savings in the process," the governor added.

Courtesy resignations

Inos said he and Hofschneider received the performance reports from Cabinet members and agency heads and the review is expected to be completed this Thursday, when the governor will possibly announce who will be replaced or retained.

He said he expected the courtesy resignations to accompany the performance reports.

Tebuteb reiterated yesterday his call for Cabinet members to give the new governor and lieutenant governor the chance to choose their Cabinet members.

Some Cabinet and agency heads interviewed yesterday said they did not submit courtesy resignations. Only a few department heads confirmed turning over a courtesy resignation.

Among them is Corrections Com-

missioner Ray Mafnas.

"I submitted my courtesy resignation before the new administration asked for Cabinet members to submit theirs. However, I was never asked to submit my courtesy resignation. I did it voluntarily," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos said he and Hofschneider will go over the performance reports.

"We want to make sure that all we do by way of moving forward will be based on the mission and how they performed during the last 12 months and... what they plan to accomplish in the ensuing 12 month-period," the governor told reporters.

Division of work

Inos said he and the lieutenant governor have talked about their division of work.

Among them is that Hofschneider will be "liaison for all matters related to the first and second senatorial districts" of Rota and Tinian.

"He's been assigned responsibility to oversee projects, CIPs in those two districts, make sure those projects are completed on time and work with respective mayors to start executing or implementing the projects," he added.

Inos, a former lieutenant governor, ascended to the gubernatorial post on Feb. 20, after former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned.

Fitial stepped down days ahead of his impeachment trial on March 7. The House of Representatives impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

Healthcare Corp. approved for EHR incentive payment

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. stands to get \$1.4 million within a month as incentive payment for its electronic health record project after it received drawdown approval over the weekend.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he received the notice of approval from University of Hawaii's specialist Norman Okamura, Ph.D., who relayed the latest announcement from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Okamura's email to corporation officials on Saturday in-

dicating that the "CNMI is now cleared for the EHR incentive payment" and the next step for the NMI State Medicaid Agency is to do the appropriate drawdown while the corporation is reminded to prepare for the audit as described in the approval letter from CMMS.

Babauta said the corporation will be able to drawdown the \$1.4 million within a month. The amount represents the first year's incentive. An estimated \$300,000 to \$400,000 will be issued to the corporation in the second year, based on CHCC calculations.

Babauta recognized and praised the hard work of Okamura and Commonwealth Health Care staff headed by

COO Esther Muña. He described the success of the project as a collective effort.

Babauta said the second increment of the incentive payment is set for drawdown within 12 months, depending on the evaluation of the meaningful use of the electronic health record system.

The corporation borrowed \$4.58 million last year from the Marianas Public Land

Trust, of which \$1.5 million was used for the electronic health record project. Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that the corporation can now pay back the loan for the project.

The local Medicaid Office earlier announced that the Commonwealth is the first area in the Pacific to avail of the electronic health record incentive program, which provides important motivation and financial sup-

port for eligible providers.

The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program was created under the 2009 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, a federal law that authorized Medicare and Medicaid electronic health record incentive payments.

The CNMI Medicaid Program worked with other health information technology stakeholders in the Commonwealth to develop the CNMI State Medicaid HIT Plan that was approved by the U.S. Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services as one of the prerequisites for launching the EHR Incentive Program.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services encourages the use of electronic health record systems by providers and health agencies to plan, implement, and sustainably maintain a secure health information exchange capability connected to the National Health Information Network. The plan builds on the capacity of local and regional exchange efforts.

4 more CPA board members submit courtesy resignations

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the courtesy resignation of Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose Lifofoi last week, four of his colleagues followed suit and tendered their resignations with the new governor, Eloy S. Inos.

Board vice chair Manny Villagomez and board members Barrie Toves, Margaret Prater, and Benigno Sablan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* their resignations yesterday, describing the move as a customary practice to show respect to the new administration, which should be given a free hand to select its own team.

Toves, Rota's representative on the CPA board, said he submitted his courtesy resignation yesterday but it has yet to be acted upon as of press time.

Toves is chairman of the

board's finance committee. He joined the board in 2008 when he was appointed to continue the unexpired term of then board member Prudencio Manglona. His new term is expiring in May 2014.

"It is appropriate in my belief to voluntarily resign in order to extend the courtesy of assisting with the smooth transition of the new administration. Although my term on the board has yet to expire, I feel that you should be given the opportunity to select or retain members of the board of directors including CPA, as well as other agency and department heads," states part of Toves' letter to Inos.

Sablan, chairman of the board committee on seaport facilities, turned in his courtesy resignation last Thursday. He described it as a show of respect for the new governor. Sablan, representing Saipan, has been with

the board for five years; his current term expires in June 2013.

Villagomez, who represents Tinian on the board, said that whether the current board will continue or not depends on the decision of the new governor. Villagomez is on his second term, which expires in October 2015. He first joined the board to finish the term of then board member Ike Quichocho. He described his resignation as a "personal decision" and the "proper thing to do."

Echoing her colleagues, Prater said her decision to resign is personal and proper to give the new governor leeway to select his own set of board members. Prater has been on the board for almost five years now, representing Saipan.

All four members thanked the governor for the privilege given them to serve the CNMI.

The CPA board is a seven-

member body that governs the operation of all airports and seaports in the Commonwealth. Other board members are Fermin Sakisat and Connie Igisomar.

Meantime, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said last week that he looks forward to working with the Inos administration. He said CPA has already been working closely with Inos when he was still the lieutenant governor.

Although CPA is an autonomous agency that relies on its own revenues, Deleon Guerrero said they are mindful of the Executive Branch's directives, specifically regarding hiring and salary adjustments.

The CPA board hires the executive director to implement the board's decision and actions. Deleon Guerrero's employment contract is due in December this year.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Half-day session today for select schools

This is to inform the community and parents that the CNMI PSS Southern Cluster Schools will have a half-day session today, March 5, 2013. Students at the elementary and junior high will be released by 12pm; at the high school at 1:05pm. The Southern Cluster Schools are Dandan, Koblerville, San Antonio, and WSR elementary schools, Hopwood Junior High School, and Saipan Southern High School. (PR)

Half-day session for MHS

Marianas High School will have a half-day session on March 7, 2013, due to the distribution of mid-progress reports, which will be held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium from 4pm to 6pm. All students will be released at 1pm.

Air Force, Navy training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 4-8, from 8am to 1am. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Naval Base Guam to close back gate

SANTA RITA, Guam—Due to the current fiscal environment the Naval Base Guam back gate was closed effective Monday, March 4, until further notice. Authorized motorists will be able to access the installation through the NBG front gate on Marine Corps Drive. Motorists should anticipate traffic congestion in the area, particularly during the morning rush hour, and are advised to plan their travel time accordingly. (PR)

SCC meeting on

Wednesday; Inos is guest speaker

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and the meeting commences at noon. Gov. Eloy Inos will be the guest speaker. Northern Marianas College will also provide information about the new relationship between NMC and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Luncheon is \$20 for Chamber members, and \$30 for guests and the public. Call the Chamber office at 233-7150 for reservations, or contact coordinator@saipanchamber.com for further information. (SCC)

Friends of the Arts auditions for 'Miss Saigon'

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil's *Miss Saigon* on May 3, 4, and 5. Interested performers and would-be performers are invited to try out. Auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School on Tuesday, March 12, from 6pm to 8pm. (PR)

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). (UOG)

On behalf of the NMI Volleyball Association & the Guam Volleyball Federation

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February 16-17 • Saipan

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Zoning, DPW studying options for abandoned buildings

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Office is working with the Department of Public Works on what to do with abandoned buildings on island.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogomoro said this is part of the efforts of the Tourism Task Force, of which both Zoning Office and DPW are members.

Abandoned buildings are eyesores and Ogomoro said the legal counsels of both offices are now working on guidelines to deal with the issue.

Kate Fuller, Zoning Office legal counsel, said the office can only go after abandoned buildings as public nuisances, which is not an easy task.

Demolishing an abandoned building is also not appealing because of the cost, she added.

"The property owner is ultimately responsible but because it's going to be very expensive to demolish the building, the owner is not going to want to do it. I don't think there's going



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Commonwealth Zoning Board gather for a meeting last Feb. 21 in Dandan.

to be a desire on the part of the government generally to force those people to cough up that much money to demolish those buildings," Fuller said during the Commonwealth Zoning Board's February meeting.

Unlike junk cars, abandoned buildings are more costly to dis-

pose, she added.

Fuller noted that the two agencies are looking at the possibility of having a private contractor demolish abandoned buildings in exchange for giving the contractor anything of value in the building to help offset the cost of the demolition.

Another route, she said, would be DPW's building code, which has "a much simpler process" compared to Zoning's public nuisance.

Fuller added that the two agencies will have a "test case" to ensure that the appropriate process has been determined.

Medical Reserve Corps seeks more volunteers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Medical Reserve Corps in the CNMI is on the lookout for more volunteers as part of efforts to make the organization more capable of responding to different types of emergencies.

Warren Villagomez, director for Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., said that MRC is a network of volunteers aimed at improving health resiliency within communities.

The local MRC is part of the corporation's public health and hospital awareness programs

through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Villagomez said the Northern Marianas has a sanctioned MRC registry of about 50 medical and non-medical volunteers, including nurses and other health care providers, retired police officers, government employees, and other community members.

"We're looking for more volunteers to build our capacity in the event that there's a public health or hospital emergency. Our goal is all about patient safety," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Villagomez, the MRC is activated during an

emergency or disaster anywhere in the Commonwealth, placing volunteers in appropriate response efforts to help affected individuals.

Villagomez noted that among MRC's capabilities is to link up with government agencies such as the CNMI Department of Public Safety and the Department of Homeland Security, private clinics, and non-governmental organizations.

"We pool resources together and we can push resources out if there's an emergency," he added.

Besides participation in education outreach, MRC is also involved in other health-

related activities such as the flu vaccination drive.

For the first time last month, a team of volunteers and staff administered over 60 flu vaccines to Tinian residents at the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival event.

Villagomez said they plan to offer the free flu vaccines to Rota residents during the Agricultural Fair this March.

Although flu season comes and goes, he said the corporation is working on educating the public about flu prevention by practicing good personal hygiene.

To become an MRC volunteer or for more information, call 236-8760 or 234-8950.

2012 report

In other news, the Zoning Office has reported an increase in many of the permit and activity types they issued or conducted for calendar year 2012 compared to 2011.

The increase is reflected in temporary use, nonconforming registration, signs, zoning permit/variance, single family dwelling, minor site plans, home business, and conditional use.

On the other hand, there was a decline in the number of notice

of violations, minor/major subdivisions, and major site plans issued and approved.

Ogomoro noted during last month's board meeting that the Zoning Office was more aggressive in its inspection and enforcement efforts in 2012 than 2011.

Asked by *Saipan Tribune* to expound on her 2012 operations report, Ogomoro said that more details on the report would be provided the next time the board convenes.

PSS cadets up for 5-day Spring Camp this month

» JROTC elated with success of annual drill competitions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After successfully holding the CNMI Public School System's annual drill competitions, JROTC director of army instruction Lt. Col. (retired) Bob Gay announced that the islands' cadets are gearing up another big event this month.

Gay said the annual Spring Camp is scheduled for 150 cadets from all public high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on March 22 through 26, to be held at the back of Saipan Southern High School.

During the five-day activity, participants will build a campsite where all cadets will participate in the traditional JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge Encampment.

According to Gay, the battalions will be provided the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and compete in a positive environment. Besides the high-spirited competitions, cadets will join in a multitude of activities that included physical training, rappelling, leadership reaction course, obstacle course, platoon drill, rope bridge construction, knot tying, land navigation, first aid, and many others.

The JROTC Program's annual drill competition was recently held at the Marianas High School campus. This event, Gay said, showcased the hard work and technical skills of all five CNMI JROTC high school drill teams.

The competition involved two divisions of drill expertise: unarmed and armed. Within each division, the drill teams would execute four specific categories of drill. These included inspection, regulation drill, exhibition drill, and color guard.

The JROTC cadre met in October 2012 and delineated the procedural aspects and guidelines for the competition. Gay brought in evalua-

tors from Guam JROTC and University of Guam SROTC to evaluate the drill meet. Gay also designated Sgt. Maj. (retired) Jack Kiyoshi, who attended last year's National Drill Championships, to train the CNMI JROTC cadres on the nuances of that evaluation.

"All of the drill teams performed at a high level and deserve much credit. The JROTC cadre deserves a lot of credit as well for the long hours they dedicated to their cadets to ready them for the competition," he told *Saipan Tribune* Friday.

In the armed category, Marianas High School won the Armed Regulation and Armed Color Guard. Saipan Southern High School won the Armed Exhibition Drill and Armed Inspection. SSSH finished first overall in the Armed Division followed by MHS and KHS.

In the unarmed division, Rota High School won Inspection, Regulation Drill, Color Guard, and Exhibition Drill. RHS finished first in the Unarmed Category followed by Tinian High School.

Gay said that a lot of people contributed to the success of the drill meet, including the MHS JROTC Cadre: Capt. Ernest Torres, Command Sgt. Maj. Leo Rabago, and 1st Sgt. Gene Guzman for hosting the competition. He also thanked MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera and her staff for their support. Gay also recognized the DAI PSS JROTC Multiple School Staff for their great job providing logistical and operational support.

Also recognized were the effective coordination of the air support for the Rota and Tinian cadets; parents and the family members; Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., Board of Education members, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for their support.

Gay said that he would enter the SSSH and RHS JROTC Drill Teams with the U.S. Army Cadet Command JROTC Drill Championship Committee to gain admittance to the National Drill Meet scheduled for April 6, 2013, in Louisville, Kentucky.

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP13-CHCC-086
Submission Date: March 12, 2013 Time: 10:00 A.M.

"LABORATORY DIRECTOR FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after **February 26, 2013** and may be picked up at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
Chief executive officer, CHCC

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Proc. & Supply

Sarina U. Bailas
P.O. Box 501273
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-5855

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: W.M.B. (4/7/2009) Minor Child, by Sarina U. Bailas Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0040 NOTICE OF HEARING
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Miki Ordenez
P.O. Box 10003 PMB 811
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 322-6666

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: T.T.S.O. (2/25/1996) Minor Child, by Miki Sato Ordenez Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0050 NOTICE OF HEARING
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Sarina U. Bailas, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 14th day of March, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. or soon as thereafter.

Dated 1st day of February, 2013

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor child by Miki Sato Ordenez, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 14th day of March, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. or soon as thereafter.

Dated 1st day of February, 2013

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP13-DCCA/CCDF-077

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 08, 2013 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES
FOR THE DCCA CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM'S
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS"**

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **FEBRUARY 19, 2013** AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **MARCH 21, 2013 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER, SUSUPE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CLI-CNMI backyard garden yields bumper crop for clients



CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left to right, Center for Living Independently in the CNMI consumers Jamil Islam and Rudy Atalig, executive director Lydia D. Igitol, and staffer Matilde Selepeo show the crops they harvested from the center's small garden.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consumers at the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI are showing a potential for gardening and horticulture, recently harvesting some of the crops they have grown in the center's backyard.

Rudy Atalig and Jamil Islam, along with CLI-CNMI executive director Lydia D. Igitol, showed *Saipan Tribune* the sweet potatoes and taro they gathered on Feb. 22 from their small garden.

Igitol said they started the garden late last year to teach their consumers a new skill.

She said the garden was made possible with the assistance of seven students from Saipan Southern High School, who complete their required community service hours at the center.

Igitol said this is by far the largest group of students that they have accommodated so far. The students spend two hours at the center every Friday and are supervised by a teacher aide.

Besides taro and sweet potatoes, other crops that the consumers and students planted are green onions, tomatoes, eggplants, okra, and lemongrass. Their backyard also has papaya and banana trees.

Igitol disclosed that it was Atalig, a consumer and volunteer at the center, who provided the sweet potato cuttings that were planted in a small patch of land behind the CLI-CNMI building on Capital Hill.

Atalig, who has a garden at home in Kagman, said he was surprised to see a huge sweet potato among their harvests. He would recommend other consumers to look into starting their own backyard garden because it's "easy."

According to Igitol, consumers at the center are taught different skills such as gardening, yard maintenance, and simple meal preparation as part of their training to become more independent and self-sufficient.

"We want them to know that there are resources in their own yard. They just have to know what they are and how they can benefit from it," she said.

The success of the garden, Igitol said, proves that people with disabilities can do something to contribute to the community.

"We try to do as much as we can based on our consumers' abilities. We are very proud of their accomplishments," she added.

Igitol said their harvests will

be cooked island-style and will be shared by their consumers. They are looking at expanding the crops they have and possibly using their yields to raise funds to support the center's programs.

CLI-CNMI is a non-profit group run by and for persons with disabilities with the mission to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated in the community. It provides a comprehensive range of services that include information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, transportation, and individual and system advocacy.

For more information, call CLI-CNMI at 322-4304 or 03.

Bar staff robbed; man arrested for allegedly stealing a puppy

An unidentified man robbed a bar in San Jose while another man was arrested for allegedly stealing a puppy on Saipan on Saturday, police said yesterday.

Yue Xi Chen lost to the robber her brown handbag that contained \$150 cash, two cell phones, and identification cards.

In the second case, Augustine Tudela Castro, 53, was arrested for allegedly stealing a 3-month-old Doberman Pincher worth \$2,000.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said that DPS traffic and patrol officers responded to Flame Tree Bar in San Jose on Saturday at 1:20am after receiving a report of a robbery.

Based on the preliminary investigation conducted by patrol officer Jesus Cepeda, an unidentified man approached Chen, a bar employee, to ask about beer prices when he suddenly grabbed

her purse and ran outside.

The suspect was described as skinny, tall, had a fair complexion and possibly a local. He was wearing a dark shirt and a pair of short pants.

In the theft case, Blas said that Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives arrested Castro on Saturday at 1:06pm at his home in Fina Sisu for allegedly stealing a puppy. Castro's bail was set at \$500 cash.

Blas said the theft of the puppy was reported to the Department of Public Safety on Feb. 1, 2013.

Based on preliminary investigation, the puppy, described as having a brown and red coat, was stolen from a home on Mt. Tapuchao on Jan. 21, 2013.

Blas said that CIB detectives were able to identify Castro as a suspect in the case. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Saipan Tribune

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If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

Marianas Eye Institute leads in e-health records

Marianas Eye Institute, in partnership with Medicaid CNMI and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., has become the first clinic in the Pacific region to register its doctors as eligible providers under the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services website for National Level Repository Electronic Health Records Incentive.

Marianas Eye Institute has always had electronic health records, or EHR's. Electronic records, as opposed to paper charts, provides patients easy access to their records, alleviates the possibility of lost charts, and eliminates illegible handwriting errors, all while helping waiting times in the clinic.

Dr. David Khorram, director of Marianas Eye Institute, states: "When we were preparing to open our clinic in 1997, our co-founder, who had a background

in Health Information Administration, saw the clear benefits of implementing electronic health records from the very beginning. Because of this foresight, now at a time when many other clinics around the country are struggling to meet federal requirements, we have 16 years' experience with efficiencies and the improvement in care that EHR provides."

President Obama's new Health Care Reform Act has been a catalyst to encouraging all medical facilities to upgrade their medical records to EHR's. This is being done in several phases that allow clinics to ease into the world of EHR's.

Marianas Eye Institute's CEO, Russ Quinn, states: "We have always pushed to be on the leading edge of care and innovation, whether it is state-of-the-art equipment, U.S. certified technical staff or participating in diabetic research programs. If fact, we recently were the first clinic to connect to both local pharmacies with ePrescribe, which allows doctors to send prescriptions directly to the pharmacy so that patients' medications are waiting for them when they arrive at the pharmacy. EHR is just another part of our goal to provide patients with quality care."

CONTACT INFO

Tel: 235-9090

Web: www.MarianasEye.com

Helen Sablan of the CNMI Medicaid office says: "Marianas Eye Institute became the first eligible provider to register for the CNMI Medicaid EHR Incentive program."

Marianas Eye Institute has worked hand in hand with the Medicaid office to ensure that local providers were able to meet the federal deadlines.

The registration of both Khorram and Dr. Mark Robertson is the first step in showing that the Marianas Eye Institute is meeting federal requirements and thus eligible to receive EHR incentive funds. The registration of the doctors with the system is the first of 28 requirements that the clinic is poised to fulfill. Among the benefits of the certified software is that secure data can be used to improve patient care as the patient moves from provider to provider or to new locations.

Marianas Eye Institute upgraded its software a little over a year ago in anticipation of these new federal guidelines. Quinn states, "We could see the writing on the wall of where EHR

was going and we wanted to be in front of it. The new software upgrades were challenging at first, but now that we have a year's worth of experience, it is much smoother for our patients and staff alike."

Over the next couple of months, Medicaid and Marianas Eye Institute will be working together to complete the final steps of becoming a Medicaid-certified meaningful use provider. This should pave the way for other clinics in the region to see not only that it can be done

but that collaborative efforts between government agencies and private practices can benefit the overall care of patients.

Marianas Eye Institute provides complete family eye care. Its doctors, Mark Robertson, O.D., and David Khorram, M.D., have received national recognition for their work in eye care. Marianas Eye Institute is also home to the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care. It is located across the street from the 13 Fishermen's Monument on Beach Road in Garapan. Call 235-9090 for an appointment. For more information, visit www.MarianasEye.com. (MEI)



Khorram

Hofschneider scales back Tinian swearing-in rites

In recognition of the CNMI's economic recovery and, more recently, the writ of execution against all monies and accounts in the CNMI issued by Associate Judge David Wiseman in Civil Action 96-1158, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider's swearing-in ceremony on Tinian will be substantially scaled back and the reception cancelled.

Although the ceremony will push through today, March 5, its location has been changed to the Tinian Court House and will begin at 12pm. Refreshments provided by Hofschneider's family will be served immediately after the ceremony. The Inaugural Mass has also been moved to 10am at the San Jose Parish, Tinian.

"I appreciate everyone's support of my elevation as lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth. This is indeed a momentous occasion for our people in Tinian and throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. However, after consultation with my family, friends, and Gov. [Eloy] Inos, I have decided that it would be best for all if we scale down the swearing-in ceremony on Tinian. The Commonwealth has many pressing economic and legal issues facing it and I do not believe a full blown celebration is appropriate at this time," said Hofschneider. "I apologize to all invitees who have based their arrangements on the ceremony's original schedule. The ceremony will still be on the same day, but will just be a little more modest, and is still open to the general public."

The writ of execution issued by Wiseman prevents the CNMI government from using its funds until the plaintiff in Civil Action 96-1158 is fully compensated. (Office of the Lieutenant Governor)

March 15 deadline for Bank of Guam scholarships

» 5 awardees to receive \$2,000 each plus paid summer internship

Just over two weeks remain for applications to be submitted for the Bank of Guam IFIT Scholarship. Applications are available for the Bank of Guam IFIT Scholarship, which makes \$2,000 available for five graduating seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four-year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the bank's branches.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

1. Be U.S. citizens who reside in Guam, the CNMI, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;
2. Be high school seniors, Class of 2013, (copies of transcripts and SAT/ACT scores required) from an accredited high school with a 3.5 grade point average.
3. Submit the original, num-

bered application by March 15, 2013, to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Marketing Department;

4. Submit three letters of recommendation, one from a reference of choice;

5. Submit answers to four essay questions.

The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university, and would be earmarked to those students pursuing degrees in business, finance, accounting, economics or related majors (can be multidisciplinary). Ten semifinalists will be selected in April, who will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four-year college or university.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam board chair, president and chief executive officer stat-

ed, "We are very proud to offer graduating high school seniors an opportunity to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Given Bank of Guam's longstanding service and commitment to higher education for its communities, it is a privilege to continue this commitment."

Last year's awardees were graduates of Guam's Notre Dame High School, Academy of Our Lady of Guam and Southern High. Additionally, graduates from Saipan's Kagman High and Pohnpei's Seventh-Day Academy won the scholarships and paid internships.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department at the Hagatna branch lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted. (BoG)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 5, 2004

US lawmaker backs NMI delegate bid

The Northern Marianas' effort to get a nonvoting delegate status to the U.S. Congress has obtained backing from U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall, who openly supported the bid of Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio during the oversight hearing last week. Rahall, a member of the Resource Committee that conducted the hearing, expressed his support for a nonvoting delegate from the Northern Marianas to the U.S. House of Representatives. "I believe it [nonvoting delegate] to be a fundamental tenet of our republican form of government. As members of Congress, representing our respective districts is a privilege granted to us by our constituents. The right for them to be represented lies in democracy," said Rahall.

House members debate LB expansion

A Senate resolution to increase the Legislative Bureau's full time employees from 35 to 45 was concurred by the House of Representatives yesterday, but not before a heated debate ensued among members. Arguments raised by some lawmakers were rooted on doubts over the expansion's aptness given the Legislature's limited financial resources. At the last minute, Minority Leader Heinz S. Hofschneider moved that the House enter into a committee as a whole to seek justification from LB Executive Director Walter Macaranas. Macaranas affirmed before House members yesterday the need for more professional services.

Mar. 5, 2005

House approves Agingan bill

After a lengthy discussion, the House of Representatives finally approved yesterday the reprogramming of \$3.3 million for the needed upgrade of the Agingan wastewater treatment plant on Saipan. Despite hesitation by some members, House Bill 14-286 garnered a resounding 13 "yes" votes and only three "no" votes from Reps. Janet Maratita, Ray Tebuteb, and Benjamin Seman. Some members only agreed to vote on the measure after it was amended to bring it back to its original version. The bill, authored by Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez, originally sought to reprogram \$3.3 million from the Kagman wastewater treatment plant project for the construction of the Agingan ocean outfall and upgrade of the Agingan sewer treatment plant.

Scholarship Office issues \$350K in awards

The CNMI Scholarship Office distributed a total of \$350,000 in financial assistance to over 150 Northern Marianas College yesterday. Scholarship Office administrator Meliza Guajardo said the 167 recipients got \$2,100 each to help them pay for their tuition and other school expenses in the Spring semester. Another batch of the same number of students will receive checks from the Scholarship Office on Friday next week. The scholarship program is also available for other local students who are pursuing post-secondary education abroad. There are about the same number of off-island and on-island students receiving help from the Scholarship Office, Guajardo said.

Mar. 5, 2006

CPA reports good, bad news

Total airport revenue declined by 14 percent during the first three months of fiscal year 2006, due in large part to a plunge in aviation and concession fee earnings. According to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, its earnings from aviation plummeted by 18 percent, while its concession fee collections went down by 9 percent. In a report to the CPA board last week, comptroller George Palican said that airport revenue in the CNMI totaled \$2.8 million from October to December 2005-a 14-percent decrease from the same period in the last fiscal year. He said that aviation revenue totaled \$1.6 million, or \$394,232 lower than in FY 2005, while concession revenues totaled \$659,896, about \$67,808 less than the previous year.

NMI gets \$39K for drug treatment in jails, prisons

The Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded \$39,755 that will be used to fund treatment for drug and substance addiction among its prisoners and detainees. The funding is part of the \$9.6 million that was announced yesterday by the Office of Justice Programs to provide substance abuse treatment to offenders at state and local correctional and detention facilities nationwide. The grants, administered by OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance, were made through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, which funds the development and implementation of individual and group substance abuse treatment programs for offenders in residential facilities operated by state and local correctional agencies.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 12th birthday Tyler Flores! Greetings coming out from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to WO1 Maylynn Henrick Babauta on receiving your bachelor's degree in Justice Administration from the Hawaii Pacific University. We are so proud of you.

We love you! Greetings come from your dad, Francisco Kody Angel and the rest of your family in Dandan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Pacific

10 mariners from Palau rescued from Philippine Sea

The U.S. Coast Guard, in coordination with the Republic of Palau Division of Maritime Law Enforcement and the Royal Australian Navy Maritime Surveillance Advisor, provided assistance to the Republic of Palau, rescuing 10 mariners from

the Philippine Sea, 90 nautical miles northeast of Palau.

The mariners in distress originated their voyage on a 60-foot traditional sailing canoe traveling from Palau to the outer islands of Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia. The vessel had 10 crewmembers onboard, including students from the Palau Community College; Palauan, Japanese, and U.S. citizens.

Using a satellite telephone, the canoe contacted officials at the Palau Community College at 6:30am Chamorro Standard

Time, on March 4, 2013, and indicated the vessel was breaking apart and sinking.

Palau Community College officials contacted the appropriate Palauan agencies in accordance with their National Search and Rescue Plan, who requested assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard in accordance with a longstanding memorandum of understanding under the Compact of Free Association.

The Coast Guard launched the 110-foot USCGC *Washington* to assist in this case, and

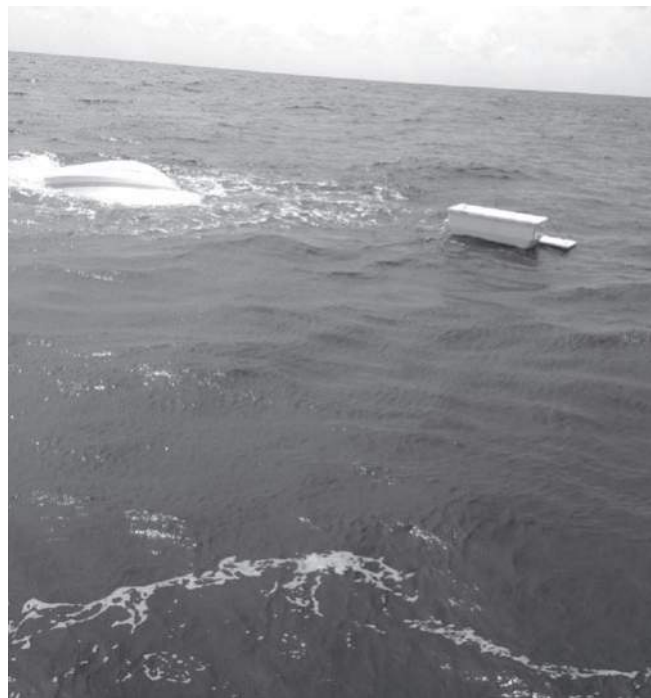
requested long range aircraft support from the U.S. Navy's Combined Task Force 72, located in Kadena, Japan. The Coast Guard also identified a commercial cargo vessel, the Panamanian-flagged *Hyundai Unity*, transiting in the vicinity of the distress location, and contacted the vessel asking for their assistance. The vessel diverted from their course and maneuvered toward the distress position.

The crew of the *Hyundai Unity* spotted the individuals at 11:32am ChST and began the

process of recovering all of the crew members. The USCGC *Washington* will be meeting the commercial vessel at the distress location and will be transporting the crew members to Palau.

This successful response was greatly assisted by the foresight and planning of the vessel crew, who filed a detailed float plan prior to departing, and maintained a full suite of lifesaving equipment, including a satellite telephone and personal flotation devices for every person on board. (USCG)

Guam mariner in distress rescued



Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and U.S. Coast Guard crews respond to a mariner whose vessel submerged and capsized 13 nautical miles off of Guam in the vicinity of Galvez Banks.

U.S. COAST GUARD/SN BRADYN BROWN

APRA HARBOR, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy search and rescue crews partnered to provide assistance to a fisherman whose vessel began taking on water and quickly capsized 13 nautical miles off the coast of Guam, in the vicinity of Galvez Banks, south of Merizo.

The fisherman made a radio call on Sunday at 10:21am indicating that he was sinking; however this transmission was not made on a standard distress frequency. Fortunately, the distress call was received by a good Samaritan vessel that relayed the call to U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam over VHF radio maritime distress channel 16.

The Coast Guard immediately dispatched a response boat from U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor and requested assistance from U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25.

The Navy's HSC-25 launched a helicopter, which quickly arrived in the search area and identified a single individual on an overturned vessel. The helicopter crew used their rescue swimmer to recover the individual and transported him to Naval Hospital for evaluation.

The Coast Guard RB-M conducted an evaluation of the sunken vessel and determined it was unrecoverable.

Mariners are recommended to have a VHF-FM marine-band radio on board set to channel 16 to signal distress. Mariners in distress are just a call away from help, since the Coast Guard monitors channel 16 at all times. The Coast Guard's Rescue 21 communications network provides emergency VHF reception within 20 nautical miles of Guam. Vessel safety checks can also be obtained for free by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. (USCG)

Massive sailing canoe takes shape on Lamotrek

Men on the remote Pacific Atoll of Lamotrek are hard at work, carving and shaping a massive sailing canoe. In addition to preserving their native traditions, they may be carving their way into the record books as they work under a tarp by the open-air men's house on the beach.

Voyaging canoes in the Caroline Islands (modern-day Micronesia) are made from hollowed-out tree trunks for the keel. Planks are then fitted and tied in with rope made from coconut fibers to complete the sides. These graceful crafts appear symmetrical. Both sternposts and stems protrude up from the keel in forks that shoot up like lizard tongues. An outrigger is used to steady the canoe and the mast and sail are adjustable, rather than fixed. Remarkably, this allows for sailing to windward up to 75 degrees off the wind. The design used today is identical to that detailed by Spanish missionaries in the early 1700s who called the Carolinian canoes "flying proas."

Canoes produced on the Outer Islands—those small islands and atolls that stretch between the Micronesian state capitals of Yap Proper and the Chuuk Lagoon—are limited in size. Trees growing in the rough soil of the remote atolls don't reach the height and width require for very large canoe keels. In this case, the men and boys of Lamotrek received a massive tree from Yap Proper to serve as the canoe's hull. That hull, roughly 40 feet in length, could make the new canoe a record breaker.

The project was envisioned and coordinated by Waa'gey, a community based organization headquartered on Yap Proper that serves Outer Islanders across Micronesia.

Waa'gey collaborated with the Lamotrek Youth and with master carvers Xavier Yarofaliyango and Brono Tharnagan. Young Outer Island men on Yap Proper cut the tree down and prepared it for delivery to Lamotrek aboard the State Supply Vessel. The US-based Habele organization provided financial support to compensate the landowner,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carvers shape the canoe hull on Lamotrek in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia.

provide tools, and ship the canoe aboard the state vessel.

The canoe is historic for reasons beyond its mammoth size. It may be the first canoe ever that was cut down by Outer Is-

landers in Yap proper, carved down to reduce weight and sent out to an Outer Island for final construction. Voyaging canoes of this type made regular trips between islands across

the Carolines until the Japanese ordered an end to the practice in the 1920s.

Carvers on Lamotrek plan to donate the canoe to the community at large, ensuring the craft will see regular use through travel within the lagoon. The length and width will also be a major asset for men on community fishing trips during preparation for traditional ceremonies and parties. Unlike fiberglass hulled boats with outboard engines, fuel and spare parts shortages won't be an issue.

Carvers hope to complete and launch the historic canoe this summer. Volunteers and supporters from both Waa'gey and Habele plan to attend. Once the traditional vessel has completed its sea trials, plans will be made for longer-distance sailing.

"I've heard rumors and rumblings about an eventual open ocean voyage from Lamotrek to Saipan," reported one source close to the project. "Just the fact that such a journey would be possible is a big deal!"

Such a trip would serve to reenact a well-documented voyage in 1787 when three chiefs from Lamotrek arrived in the Marianas after 10 days at sea. (Habele)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Adzes are used to slowly remove wood, forming the hull.

VA rep to visit Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae

The U. S. Embassy in Kolonia and the U.S. Veterans Administration in Guam would like to inform all U.S. military veterans that a Veterans Benefits Representative, Gregorio Borja, is scheduled to visit Chuuk from March 18 to March 20. While in Chuuk he will meet veterans at the Blue Lagoon Hotel. He will then travel to Pohnpei where he will meet veterans from March 20 to 22 at the Ocean View Hotel. Additionally, he will travel to

Kosrae to meet veterans there from March 22 to March 25 at the Nautilus Resort.

Interested veterans can contact Borja directly at the different hotels during the dates listed above or email Gregorio.A.Borja@va.gov for an appointment. For more information, contact Elizabeth Silwer at the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia after March 13. Her phone number is 320-2187 and email is SilwerEP@state.gov. (U.S. Embassy)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 45Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

US should reconsider embargo when Castros' reign ends

For years, the accepted view was that the end of the Castro regime in Cuba would be volatile, perhaps even explosive.

But on Sunday, Raul Castro, younger brother to Fidel and current leader of the country, announced plans to cede power. The news was remarkable simply for being so unremarkable. No parades in Miami or demonstrations in Havana. No violence. Just an announcement: In 2018, Raul would turn over the reins of power.

Oh, and everyone after Castro would face term limits. Go figure.

After maintaining a stranglehold on Cuba for almost 60 years, the longest-running dictatorship in the world will cease to exist. It isn't happening at the point of a bayonet or from a popular uprising, but rather because of time. When Raul steps down, Fidel will be approaching 92 and Raul 87.

The man the Castros have chosen as successor is newly appointed Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel. Diaz-Canel is seen as an effective manager and a steady though unspectacular mover in Cuba's Communist Party. A career communist. Because of that, the speculation is that not much change will occur.

But remember, the same was said of Mikhail Gorbachev when he took control of the Soviet Union.

In a country defined by The Revolution, the impact of having a leader who is from the post-Revolution generation cannot be overstated. Diaz-Canel's generation, which has grown up in the lean times of the embargo era, is more pragmatic and open to change.

If the plan goes as scripted, this could also be a great opportunity for the United States. The U.S.-led embargo of Cuba has been devastating. Cuban diplomats claim it has cost their country \$1 trillion since 1962. It has also been a black eye internationally for the U.S. In 2010, a Cuba-backed resolution asking for an end to the embargo passed the United Nations, 185-2.

Once new leadership is in place, the U.S. should reconsider its position on the embargo.

The U.S. also has much to gain from the embargo's end. Cuba is a country in desperate need, and many of those needs could boost business not just to the U.S., but more specifically, Texas.

Cuba's primary imports are petroleum, food, and machinery and equipment. With a GDP of more than \$14 billion, there could be quite an opportunity for Texas oil and gas companies, farmers and ranchers, and equipment manufacturers.

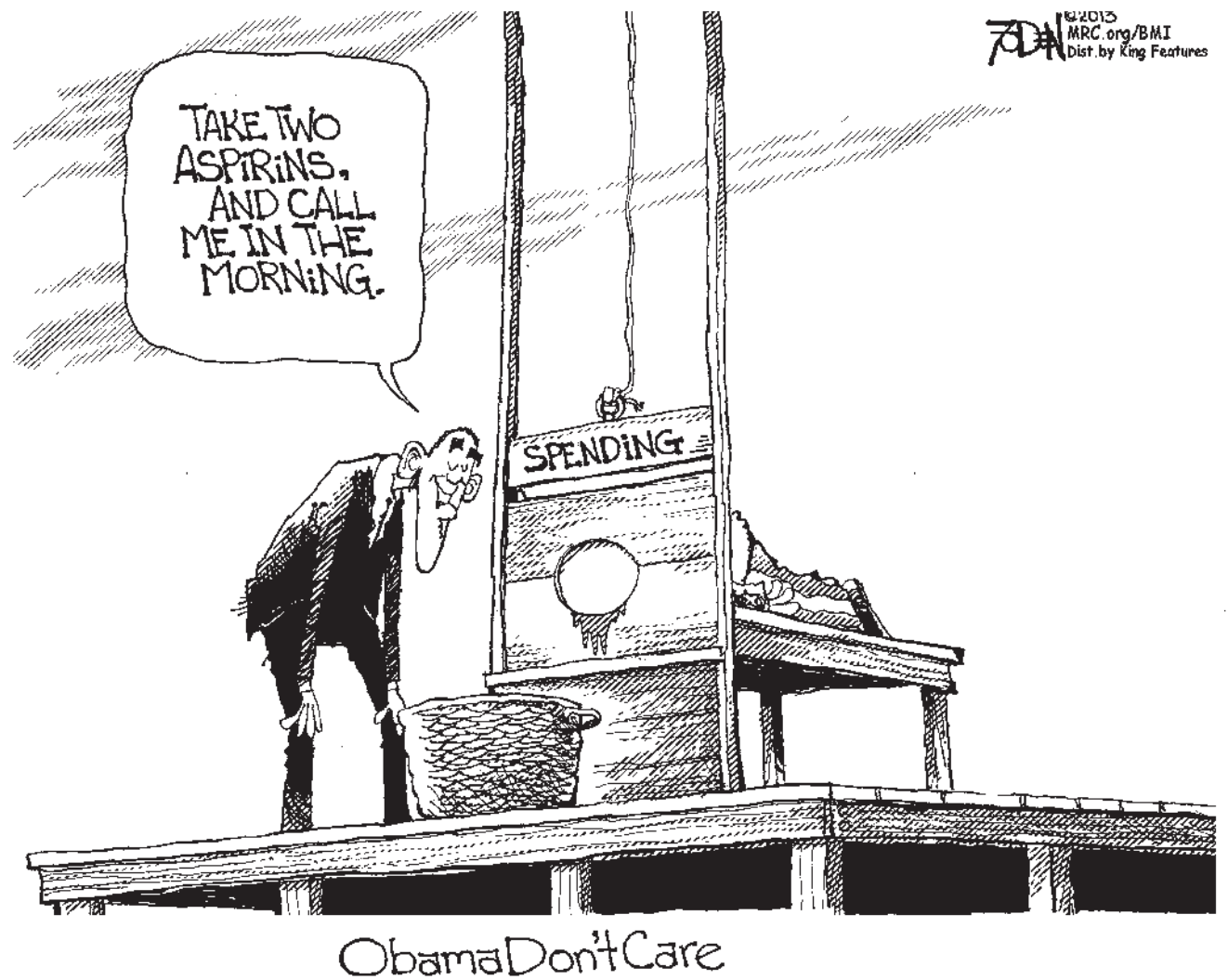
So forget the parades. Focus on the opportunity.

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Take Chinese cyberattacks seriously

Washington and many international corporations have long suspected that the Chinese government is largely behind the chronic cyberattacks that have bedeviled many companies. A recent report by a private security firm, Mandiant Corp., has

See CHINESE on Next Page



Wrestling goes for an Olympic reversal

I watched a video of the movie "Argo" as I flew into Tehran recently. I couldn't help but wonder why I was willingly accompanying a group of Americans into a city that not so long ago was the scene of one of the greatest exfiltrations ever. I wondered if Ben Affleck would rescue me if things were to go poorly.

Honestly, I wasn't really worried; I was traveling with the USA Wrestling team and we had been invited by the government of Iran to participate in the World Cup, a tournament where the top wrestling nations vie for international glory.

We'd been to Tehran before. But this year was different because it came in the wake of the surprise announcement that the International Olympic Committee has decided to drop our sport in the 2020 Games.

Wrestling was one of the original sports in the ancient Olympics in Greece, back when the Games were part of mankind's transition to civilized society. The Olympics took the skills of war and survival and turned them into non-fatal contests with rules and rewards. Fighting, running, jumping and throwing became wrestling, boxing and track and field. Wrestling has been a core sport since the introduction of the modern Olympics in 1896.

The Olympic Games and other international sporting events still stand as a counterpoint to war. Take this wrestling trip to Iran: Our athletes, wearing uniforms emblazoned with "USA," were welcomed cordially everywhere. We walked the streets of Tehran not as people from the "Great Satan" but as comrades in the union of athletes. Our men and women competed against historic foes such as Russia and Cuba, yet each match ended with a handshake—and perhaps a silent hope that future clashes will remain on wrestling mats rather than battlefields.

Athletes from more than 170 countries compete with dreams of Olympic wrestling gold. Our sport has no World Series, no Stanley Cup and no Super Bowl; for a male or female wrestler, the pinnacle is the Olympics. To be out of the Olympics is unthinkable.

So how did this happen? There had been rumblings from the IOC for months that wrestling could be on the chopping block, rumblings we foolishly ignored.

The IOC was in the process of cutting the number of core sports and had hired a consulting firm to create 39 metrics that would demonstrate the comparative popularity of events. Although the analysis was secret, excerpts found their way into the hands of the Associated Press, which reported that wrestling had fallen short in ticket sales, television revenue and media coverage. The IOC had pushed for more female categories to make the sport more fan friendly, and it asked for more transparent judging rules to address the subjective nature of deciding a contest.

By NOEL THOMPSON

Los Angeles Times

Noel Thompson, CEO of the hedge fund Thompson Global LP, was a two-time captain of the wrestling team at Hofstra University in New York. He serves as national team leader for United States Wrestling and is a governor of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Wrestling's international governing body, the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles, better known as FILA, balked. Rather than immediately moving to work with the IOC to modify our sport, we dug in.

Meanwhile, the IOC's decision prompted an international outcry. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a committee to protest the decision and make a presentation at the May IOC meeting in Moscow. Quietly, but just as decisively, calls to action came from unlikely allies: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, former U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and novelist John Irving.

And slowly, the sport started scrutinizing itself more closely. Swiss businessman Raphael Martinetti had run FILA for more than a decade. An autocratic leader, Martinetti ran the group with an iron fist. After the IOC vote, many of the organization's members began to question his leadership.

A no-confidence vote was called at the FILA meeting in Thailand on Feb. 15, and Martinetti lost, 11 to 10. He then resigned.

But while there may have been issues with Martinetti's leadership, wrestling's fall from grace at the Olympics was about more than one guy. We share collective guilt for not spending more time courting the IOC and trying to address its concerns.

Our new unified group is now focused on the May IOC meeting in Moscow, where we're hoping the decision will be overturned.

Wrestlers spend hours on the mat practicing slap-backs and take-downs. Over the next three months, we'll be learning a new move: lobbying. And we are prepared to discuss and adopt changes. Olympic wrestling is about history, not ego.

Our sport is a great unifier. It is building bridges with the Cubans who will live in a post-Castro Cuba and with ordinary Iranians more interested in sport than nuclear negotiations. The move to get us back in the Olympics has created common ground for Putin and President Obama.

And if we get reinstated? Now that would make a great movie.

Usun Finu’ Chamorro

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Maseha manu na guma’ hu fatoigue, ma-u’usa finu’ Iñglis deste dos saina, famaguon, kontodu si guelu yan guela. Maseha a’apliñg i finu’ Iñglis, ma-usune ke hila’ niha. Kontodu manog yan babue gi orian guma’ man-finu’ lalagu.

I usun ti liñguahi-mu rumesponsasable gi maliñgun liñguahi-ta piot sa’ diariu man-finu’ Iñglis hit yan famaguon-ta. Kontodu guahu man-isaue-yu gi este na puntu.

Uttimoña u faliñgu hila’ natibu ya petmanente tinilaika ni finu’ Iñglis. Estague’ na sasyan i finu’ Chamorro uttimu na patte gi kuturata ‘nai siña ta abiba haf’ mina’ fan likidu hit na tautague. Lau adumididi’ sige maliñgu kulan asgun chatagmag ni maliñgu gi fi-

natton ininan atda. Triste na hinanau i hita mismu ti umadahe ma-adelantan hila’ natibu.

Gi karera mona, siempre i ineyag liñguata mapega gi halom kuat-ton eskuela pot para umaketuñgu famaguonta haf’ liñguahen niha. Hu komprende haf’ sustansian finu’ Iñglis lau ti hu komprende para ta sedi muna’ faliñgu usun fino’ta gi halom guma’.

Mauleg mohon na un’ dia para u fan a’afaisen famaguonta na gi un’ tiempu guaha liñguahen niha?

■ ■ ■

Uttimu sasyan kuttura

Megai na patte gi kutturata tinilaika ni sisteman edukasion ‘nai sige famaguon man-eyag propiu na finu’ Iñglis. Sige mona, kontodu relasion natibu yan usun tanu’ matulaika lokue’ ‘nai sige tautau-ta man-machochu’ deste finagpu’ gera. Mas libianuña macho’chu’ para i NTTU yan TTG ke para ta planta hit gi papa’ somnag gi halom hatdin familia.

Mas tiempu, mas lokue’ umatulaika haf’ kutturata kontra nuebu siha na ineyag ni ti adapta kumu patte giya hita. Esta taya’ finana’guen bailan “mas” lau metgot finana’guen bailan Japones ni ta lili’e gi matchan feria (liberation). Kau enfin u faliñgu este na patte gi kutturan Karolinas? Kau i man-ñginge’ u matmos gi fina’ chiku?

Ti hu kontetesta i asunto lau haf’ na para ta sedi dibuenamente ma-embrasan haf’ hagas ti patte gi kutturan tanu’?

■ ■ ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More data needed

HANMI reported that its member hotels recorded an historic occupancy rate of 91 percent in January 2013. That was a good report, but the statistics only account for member hotels of HANMI. This is far short of the actual total hotel occupancy potential of all hotels on the three islands, i.e., Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. On the other hand, the news release by the Mariana Visitor Authority reporting the recent tourists arrival for the three islands could have been presented in table form. Numbers in table or graphic form are easier to understand and make analysis quicker than subjecting this type of information to a narrative interpretation. Frankly, numbers don’t lie because it is the natural language of nature. Everyone reads and interprets numbers the same way when presented in its purest form.

MVA’s news release dealt in some length with the economic highlights of Korea, Japan, China, and others. Even if you publish a dissertation about the economic problems of these economies, we have no control over them and what relevance would that have over what MVA is doing to pull tourists from these areas? What we need to know is whether the marketing money being spent in a particular area is producing tourist arrivals from that area. Very simply, we spend X dollars and we should get Y tourists for the period from the area. When comparative statistics is available for year-over-year or month-over-month comparison, we should be able to assess if MVA is doing what it is supposed to do, i.e., pulling tourists to the Northern Mariana Islands. That’s all.

HANMI’s statistical information is still missing a large portion of descriptive statistical data in order for one to make a useful analysis of hotel occupancy rate for all the islands for any particular period. Continuity and consistency of data is a necessary element of statistical analysis. If we are not able to ascertain the following four key metrics, this half-full data being published by HANMI is of no use to any layperson who has an interest in these matters. The reason these four metrics are important is because MVA is receiving a lion’s share of public funds for its marketing programs and activities in places and principals we do not have any control over. We need to know:

1. Average daily room rate or average lowest room rates for all hotels.
2. Occupancy percent by each island: year-to-year and month-to-month for all hotels.
3. Revenue per available room for all hotels.
4. Total number of guests for the year or month for all hotels.

These are basic data, and MVA should be able to produce them as part of its mandated jurisdiction and statutory responsibility. Subsequent analysis of the data should generate discussion among stakeholders and key lawmakers in assessing the actual public policy on our tourist industry, but more importantly, honing attention as to what tourism industry model MVA is undertaking and advocating today and is taking shape for the long haul.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Some ideas for our lawmakers

Dear members of the CNMI Legislature: We appreciate your efforts in findings ways to address the Retirement Fund issue. Active members like us have only one question and that is: What is the

hold back on our refunds? Please stop hiding the truth from us. The more you lie the bigger the problem grows. Tell us the truth—what is the hold back?

This problem cannot be solved with only you leaders making plans. The Retirement Fund cannot be resolved with only you deciding how to generate revenue. My father, who was an expert in economics, used to say that supporting those who make money bring in more money. He also said that earning trust and respect bring out a productive outcome. And that providing for the needs of your customers is the road to success.

Right now, what I’ve read of your plan is a redundancy on past mistakes. To help generate more revenue, you need to hire an expert to help you with planning, someone who is knowledgeable about the hotel and tourist industry. You also need an expert in tax collecting and enforcement. You also need an expert who is knowledgeable in regulations and enforcement policies that support the generation of funds. Without these people you cannot fix the problems you have now.

To find these experts you need to form a local business task force or perhaps a union. People I would nominate someone from Joeten, PIC, Hyatt, Anthony Pellegrino, Hafadai and of course one from the lawmakers and MVA. You may want to research first on the local businessmen in our community. Get one who is successful and one who is not (In order to determine success you need a failure to compare). To address tourism, you need one from transportation, hotel, advertising, costumer safety, and sales and marketing. (A tourist looks for the best place to have a vacation and the services they are looking for are all of these.) Or just simply let the task force identify or make recommendations as to how you can generate revenue together.

To know what you need or how you need to save the Fund, you need to refund the members first and from there you can project how much budget you need or what is your goal.

And since the retirees are the only members left, I would suggest that what we learned in the workshop about creating a cooperative be used as a tryout for the retirees to make money and be able to generate funds for the remaining members. Since the Fund is dying anyway, why not form that cooperative business by partnering with other organizations and investing money? Who knows, maybe some of the active DB members might join should the cooperative come up with a win-win business plan. Something small first, then as it grows increase your quantity.

Or we could invite these longtime business owners to become cooperative partners and we let them manage the business and cooperative members can be employed or get paid while working for them. And those with disability should also be given a share for contributing funds.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

To Russ Mason

Okay Russ, I was mistaken. Apparently you know quite a bit of Brian but what you failed to mention is that if the order of succession in the CNMI Constitution was not a provision, Brian was supposed to be the new lieutenant governor for the CNMI.

Take care and I hope we are able to meet sometime so that I can properly apologize.

Michael Geisinger
Dandan, Saipan

Rinikonosen kuttura

Apmam na tiempu un’ amiguha ha diñgu i tanu’. Lau gi santatten hinasoña sessu mumahalañg ni haf’ pinayoña ‘nai dumadañkulu hulu guine siha na islas.

Ha soda’ un’ tendan Samoan ni bumebende lagua. Ha fahan dos pidasu. Ha kelaguen ya ha kaddun niyog i ilu yan to’lañg. Mamadeni’ ya mata’choñg dispues yan hinegsa’ ya ilegña, “Estague’ sentadan isla”.

Man-ginagacha’ mahalañg i tautau-ta siha gi chagu’ na lugat siha na guaha ‘nai sinparat madadandan kantan Noche Buena achog mediu Eneu ‘sino Juliu. Esta man-tutuhu’ lagu’ niha ‘an mahahassu tatte familia ‘sino i gatbo na tanu’ ‘nai man-mafañagu siha. Magahet ti tulaikayon i tanu’ ‘nai man-ma-impronta lastrota deste kantun unai hulu’ esta i lanchun sabana ‘nai man-añglu’ masahalomta.

‘An tiempon ha’ anen gupot (Christmas) kontodu man-ñginge’ Niñu sumasaunau gi entalu’ familia siha gi ‘nos kuantos estados. Maselebra este na okasion gi preparasion sentada para todus i bisita siha. Mata’lon marinueba i manñge’ na amestan yan inafamauleg tautau-ta.

Anog na maseha manu guatu i tautau-ta, maseha kuantos tiempu manaigue guine, memetgot ha’ sentimentun niha pot haf’ kutturan Chamorro. Sige adumididi’ man-mafana’gue famaguon niha finu’ Chamorro pot para u tuñgu’ na tinituhon niha gaige gi hale’ pisun finu’ Chamorro.

■ ■ ■

Otru asunto

Gi sisienta siha na sakan, sessu sumaunau-yu’ man-despide bapot para hulu’ isla (Northern Islands). Kumate i bapot, dispues ha tullusgue’ huyuñg gi saga’. Duru i señas despedida estake maliñgu gi chagu’.

Mañasaunau familia siha yan estudiante gi tutuhon bakasion eskuela. Mabira siha gi uttimon Agustu antes de mababan eskuela ta’lu. Mas paire i birada sa’ bula ayuyu yan tinala’ katne siha kontodu ag’gun haya. Ayu ‘nai huli’e taimanu preparasion sentadan natibu gi ‘nos kuantos putahe.

Dispues, kanaha’ todulalachen ginen hilu’ man-masegat (muscular) yan lodu’ kondun niha. Ti na’magof ‘an un’ fagecha’e gi fina’ estrakada.

Ayu mas hu prekura estorian mañainan mame deste peskan tasi yan halom tanu’, usun pution luseru gi lañget ni ma-u’usa kumu rilos niha yan otru siha fina’ grasia. I man-sañgan siha puru pot “es-toriata” pot tautau-ta.

■ ■ ■

Mina hu sen agradese i man-ginen hilu’ sa’ mantai molestia che’chu’ tailaye. Dispues de mañena, man-daña gi fina’ konbet-sasion, huegon balaha ‘sino dandan ukelele ya sige mañganta. Man-paire siha na sunidu hineñgoghu kontodu na’an guihañ ni tatnai huhuñgog guine deste amala yan tagula.

‘An malagu’ hau umeyag man-lamse se’si’ ‘sino muna’ kalagtos machete, famaisen sa’ manpaire gi este na offisiu ginen tiempun niha man-maño’su’ niyog. Kalagtos se’si’ niha na siña un’ batbas hau diariu. Man-felis kinalamten niha piot gi che’chu’ komunida ‘nai todul mañgalamten ‘nai machuchuda bes enkuando i sensian kooperasion.

CHINESE

From Page 10

left little doubt.

The administration should make it clear to Beijing that this behavior is unacceptable and that if it continues, it could threaten a relationship that involves the trade of \$425 billion a year.

Mandiant not only verified that China was behind hackers that have stolen huge amounts of data and trade secrets, it traced the source of the attacks to a building on Datong Road in Shanghai—the headquarters of People’s Liberation Army Unit 61398.

In one respect, it’s a sad comment on China today. It has evidently reached a point in its development where it can’t continue its break-neck growth rate simply by following the trail blazed by others, such as greater scope for free markets and export-led growth. It has reached the point where it must have access to the latest technology, but instead of innovating on its own, it attempts to steal the innovations of others.

The national security implications are also serious. China as well as other countries have shown a disturbing ability to gain access to critical U.S. computer networks such as those that coordinate air traffic control and power grids. What isn’t publicly known is how successful they have been at breaching our military networks.






So far, the Obama administration has been reserved in its handling of this problem. For example, *The New York Times* reports that privately, administration officials don’t dispute the Mandiant conclusions, but they have no desire to say this on the record for fear embarrassing Beijing could backfire.

A firmer stance is in order. If the data thefts and cyberattacks continue, Washington must put other measures on the table, including sanctions targeting the people and entities behind the attacks.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

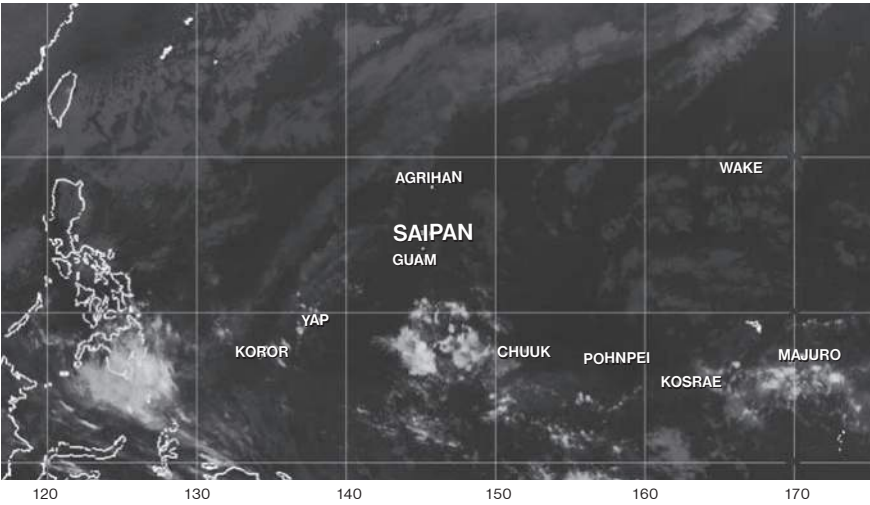
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 35
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 71
London	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 62
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 60
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 36
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 42
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 41
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 42
Salem	Rain	▲ 46 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 51
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 34
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 38
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 45 ▼ 31

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:05 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
12:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves west-southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima island at 25N154E to beyond 130E at 19N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along and up to 250 miles north of the front. A shear line extends southwestward from near the far northern CNMI at 22N146E to near Koror at 8N131E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends north-northeastward from south of Yap at 7N137E to west of the Marianas at 16N141E. Scattered showers are present near Yap within 80 miles of the trough axis. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward from 2N130E to end at EQ153E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis south of Chuuk and Pohnpei south of a line from 5N150E to 5N160E. Another surface trough south of Guam stretches northward from 5N146E to 10N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present between 5N and 11N from 143E to 151E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers near Tarawa and Butaritari atolls south of Majuro and east of Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 6N165E to 5N171E to 2N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:26 AM	12:05 PM
Wednesday	1:25 AM	1:05 PM
Thursday	2:21 AM	2:05 PM
Friday	3:15 AM	3:05 PM
Saturday	4:06 AM	4:03 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily	DL296	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	4, 6, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3	OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU7108	3:50am	7:40am	1, 5	MU7107	7:40pm	2:50am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)				VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1734	11:55am	5:10pm	5	XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL172/288	8:05am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	10:00am	6 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:40am	10:00am	3	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5072	10:15pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	9:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM
				UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Spending cuts seem here to stay

WASHINGTON (AP)—The spending cuts are here to stay if you believe the public posturing Sunday.

The Senate's Republican leader Mitch McConnell called them modest. House Speaker John Boehner isn't sure the cuts will hurt the economy. The White House's top economic adviser, Gene Sperling, said the pain isn't that bad right now.

So after months of dire warnings, Washington didn't implode, government didn't shut down and the \$85 billion budget trigger didn't spell doom. And no one has yet crafted a politically viable way to roll back those cuts.

"This modest reduction of 2.4 percent in spending over the next six months is a little more than the average American experienced just two months ago, when their own pay went down when the payroll tax holiday expired," McConnell said.

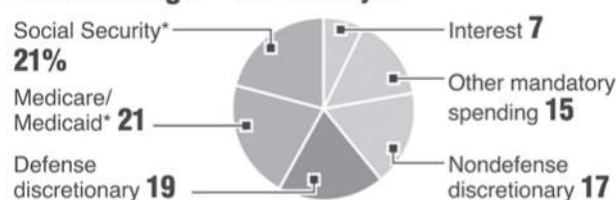
"I don't know whether it's going to hurt the economy or not," Boehner said. "I don't think anyone quite understands how the sequester is really going to work."

And Sperling, making the rounds on the Sunday news shows, added: "On Day One, it

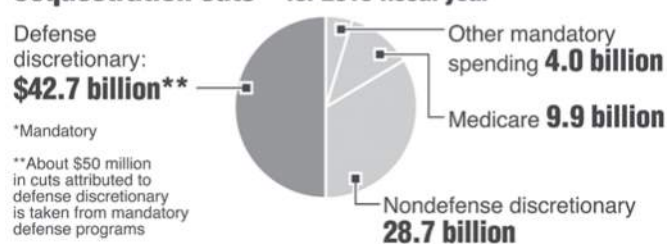
Where cuts come from

Discretionary defense spending makes up about 19 percent of the 2012 fiscal year federal budget, but it accounts for half the scheduled sequestration cuts.

Federal budget 2012 fiscal year



Sequestration cuts for 2013 fiscal year



*Mandatory

**About \$50 million in cuts attributed to defense discretionary is taken from mandatory defense programs

© 2013 MCT

Source: Bipartisan Policy Center, Congressional Budget Office

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

will not be as harmful as it will be over time."

Both parties cast blame on the other for the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts but gave little guidance on what to expect in the coming weeks. Republicans and Democrats pledged to retroactively undo the cuts but signaled no hints

as to how that process would start to take shape. Republicans insisted there would be no new taxes and Democrats refused to talk about any bargain without them.

"That's not going to work," said Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H. "If we're going to increase revenue again, it's got to go to

the debt with real entitlement reform and real tax reform when you actually lower rates. ... I'm not going to agree to any more tax increases that are going to go to increase more government."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said any tax increases were unacceptable.

"I'm not going to do any more small deals. I'm not going to raise taxes to fix sequestration. We don't need to raise taxes to fund the government," Graham said.

All of this comes ahead of a new, March 27 deadline that could spell a government shutdown and a debt-ceiling clash coming in May.

Boehner said his chamber would move this week to pass a measure to keep government open through Sept. 30. McConnell said a government shutdown was unlikely to come from his side of Capitol Hill. The White House said it would dodge the shutdown and roll back the cuts, which hit domestic and defense spending in equal share.

"We will still be committed to trying to find Republicans and Democrats that will work on a bipartisan compromise to get rid

of the sequester," Sperling said.

Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans last week put forward alternatives that would have avoided the cuts, but each side voted down the others' proposals. The House Democrats proposed an alternative but the House Republicans did not let them vote on it.

House Republicans twice passed alternatives last year.

Obama has phoned lawmakers but it isn't clear to what end; the White House refused Sunday to release the names of lawmakers Obama phoned. Boehner and McConnell said they had a productive meeting with Obama on Friday, but it didn't yield a deal.

"Well, no one can think that that's been a success for the president," said Mitt Romney, Obama's unsuccessful rival in November's election. "He didn't think the sequester would happen. It is happening."

United exceeds Feb. performance goal

» Rewards employees with bonuses

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced yesterday that it exceeded its 80 percent on-time arrival domestic and international performance goals for the month of February, following the airline's strong January performance. As a result, United is reward-

ing its eligible employees with a \$100 on-time bonus to recognize this performance. Despite challenging weather, including major snow events in several of the airline's hub markets, United ended the month with an 80.8 percent domestic on-time arrival rate, and an 80.5 percent international on-time rate.

This performance marks the first time since 2003 that United's domestic and international mainline operations both achieved 80 percent or higher on-time arrival during the first two months of the year. United's domestic operations have averaged over 80 percent on time since last September, and the airline also achieved its best single-day on-time performance of the year

Obama and the Republicans have been fighting over federal spending since the opposition party regained control of the House of Representatives in the 2010 midterm elections. The budget cuts were designed in 2011 to be so ruthless that both sides would be forced to find a better deal, but they haven't despite two years to find a compromise.

The \$85 billion in cuts apply to the remainder of the 2013 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. But without a deal they will continue slashing government spending by about \$1 trillion more over a 10-year period.

McConnell spoke to CNN's "State of the Union." Boehner was interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press." Sperling appeared on ABC's "This Week," NBC and CNN. Ayotte appeared on ABC. Graham spoke with CBS' "Face the Nation." Romney was a guest on "Fox News Sunday."

with a 91.2 percent domestic performance on Feb. 13.

The airline's hub in Cleveland delivered the best performance for the month among United's eight domestic hubs with an average on-time arrival rate of 87 percent, while the San Francisco hub came in second with an on-time arrival rate of 83 percent. The on-time arrival rates are based on flights arriving within 14 minutes of scheduled arrival time.

"Thanks to my co-workers, we continue to provide solid operational performance this year," said Jeff Smisek, United's chairman, president and CEO. "We remain focused on providing operational reliability and great customer service as we work together to become the world's leading airline."

In February United also distributed approximately \$119 million in profit sharing payments to eligible co-workers based on the company's 2012 financial results. The profit sharing payments were in addition to the more than \$350 paid to each employee last year for achieving monthly on-time performance targets. (United Airlines)

Tax bills for rich families approach 30-year high

WASHINGTON (AP)—The poor rich.

With Washington gridlocked again over whether to raise their taxes, it turns out wealthy families already are paying some of their biggest federal tax bills in decades even as the rest of the population continues to pay at historically low rates.

President Barack Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress say the wealthy must pay their fair share if the federal government is ever going to fix its finances and reduce the budget deficit to a manageable level.

A new analysis, however, shows that average tax bills for high-income families rarely have been higher since the Congressional Budget Office began tracking the data in 1979. Middle- and low-income families aren't paying as much as they used to.

For 2013, families with incomes in the top 20 percent of

the nation will pay an average of 27.2 percent of their income in federal taxes, according to projections by the Tax Policy Center, a research organization based in Washington. The top 1 percent of households, those with incomes averaging \$1.4 million, will pay an average of 35.5 percent.

Those tax rates, which include income, payroll, corporate and estate taxes, are among the highest since 1979.

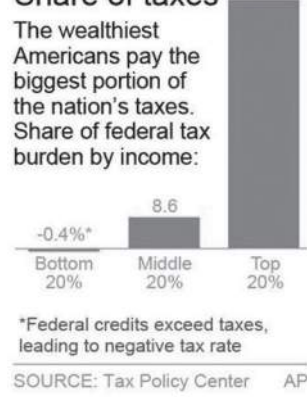
The average family in the bottom 20 percent of households won't pay any federal taxes. Instead, many families in this group will get payments from the federal government

by claiming more in credits than they owe in taxes, including payroll taxes. That will give them a negative tax rate.

"My sense is that high-income people feel abused by being targeted always for more taxes," Robertson Williams, a fellow at the Tax Policy Center, said. "You can understand why they feel that way."

Last week, Senate Democrats were unable to advance their proposal to raise taxes on some wealthy families for the second time this year as part of a package to avoid automatic spending cuts. The bill failed Thursday when Republicans blocked it.

Share of taxes



*Federal credits exceed taxes, leading to negative tax rate

SOURCE: Tax Policy Center AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

French official: No more austerity this year

PARIS (AP)—France's finance minister says his government won't enact any more austerity measures this year, even though it has acknowledged it won't meet its deficit goal because of slow growth. The French government had promised to reduce

its deficit to 3 percent of gross domestic product this year to bring it into line with European Union rules and help right the economy. But now France says that will be impossible and has asked the European Union for an extension. Still, Pierre Moscovici says the government would not heap more tax hikes

or spending cuts on the country this year. He said such measures would be counterproductive since they can slow growth even further.

Mexico's ruling party says 'yes' to energy reform

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mex-

ico's ruling party changed its platform on Sunday to allow for private investment in the oil industry, paving the way for a possible overhaul of a state-owned company that is seen as a pillar of the nation. Nearly 5,000 members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, also known as the PRI, voted unanimously

at their national convention to remove language in the party's platform that for years had opposed injecting private money in the sector. Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, is the only company that can carry out oil refining. The party also erased its opposition to sales taxes on food and medicines. President Enrique

Pena Nieto, who led last year's electoral comeback for the party that governed from 1929 to 2000, said the energy and fiscal reforms are needed for Mexico to become more competitive. He urged party members to support him when he sends the bills to Congress, likely in the second half of this year.

Nation

Scientists say baby born with HIV apparently cured

WASHINGTON (AP)—A baby born with the virus that causes AIDS appears to have been cured, scientists announced Sunday, describing the case of a child from Mississippi who's now 2 1/2 and has been off medication for about a year with no signs of infection.

There's no guarantee the child will remain healthy, although sophisticated testing uncovered just traces of the virus' genetic material still lingering. If so, it would mark only the world's second reported cure.

Specialists say Sunday's announcement, at a major AIDS meeting in Atlanta, offers promising clues for efforts to eliminate HIV infection in children, especially in AIDS-plagued African countries where too many babies are born with the virus.

"You could call this about as close to a cure, if not a cure, that we've seen," Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, who is familiar with the findings, told The Associated Press.

A doctor gave this baby faster and stronger treatment than is usual, starting a three-drug in-



This image provided by Johns Hopkins Medicine shows Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins' Children's Center in Baltimore.

fusion within 30 hours of birth. That was before tests confirmed the infant was infected and not just at risk from a mother whose HIV wasn't diagnosed until she was in labor.

"I just felt like this baby was at higher-than-normal risk, and deserved our best shot," Dr.

Hannah Gay, a pediatric HIV specialist at the University of Mississippi, said in an interview.

That fast action apparently knocked out HIV in the baby's blood before it could form hideouts in the body. Those so-called reservoirs of dormant cells usu-

ally rapidly reinfect anyone who stops medication, said Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins Children's Center. She led the investigation that deemed the child "functionally cured," meaning in long-term remission even if all traces of the virus haven't been completely eradicated.

cated.

Next, Persaud's team is planning a study to try to prove that, with more aggressive treatment of other high-risk babies. "Maybe we'll be able to block this reservoir seeding," Persaud said.

No one should stop anti-AIDS drugs as a result of this case, Fauci cautioned.

But "it opens up a lot of doors" to research if other children can be helped, he said. "It makes perfect sense what happened."

Better than treatment is to prevent babies from being born with HIV in the first place.

About 300,000 children were born with HIV in 2011, mostly in poor countries where only about 60 percent of infected pregnant women get treatment that can keep them from passing the virus to their babies. In the U.S., such births are very rare because HIV testing and treatment long have been part of prenatal care.

"We can't promise to cure babies who are infected. We can promise to prevent the vast majority of transmissions if the moms are tested during every

pregnancy," Gay stressed.

The only other person considered cured of the AIDS virus underwent a very different and risky kind of treatment—a bone marrow transplant from a special donor, one of the rare people who is naturally resistant to HIV. Timothy Ray Brown of San Francisco has not needed HIV medications in the five years since that transplant.

The Mississippi case shows "there may be different cures for different populations of HIV-infected people," said Dr. Rowena Johnston of amFAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research. That group funded Persaud's team to explore possible cases of pediatric cures.

It also suggests that scientists should look back at other children who've been treated since shortly after birth, including some reports of possible cures in the late 1990s that were dismissed at the time, said Dr. Steven Deeks of the University of California, San Francisco, who also has seen the findings.

"This will likely inspire the field, make people more optimistic that this is possible," he said.

Most of Fla. house over sinkhole demolished

SEFFNER, Fla. (AP)—Crews on Sunday razed more than half of the Tampa-area home perched over a huge sinkhole that swallowed a man three days ago, managing to salvage some keepsakes for family members who lived there.

Jeremy Bush, 35, tried to save his brother, Jeff, when the earth opened up and swallowed him Thursday night. On Sunday morning, Bush and relatives prayed with a pastor as the home—where he lived with his girlfriend, Rachel Wicker; their daughter, Hannah, 2; and others—was demolished and waited for firefighters to salvage anything possible from inside.

Early Sunday morning, just before the demolition began, Bush and an unidentified woman knelt and prayed at the mailbox in front

of the home, owned by Leland Wicker, Rachel's grandfather, since the 1970s.

After praying, Bush and the woman walked across the street to a neighbor's lawn to watch the demolition.

The operator of the heavy equipment worked gingerly, first taking off a front wall. Family belongings were scooped onto the lawn gently in hopes of salvaging parts of the family's 40-year history in the home.

As of Sunday afternoon—when demolition had stopped for the day and only a few walls of the home remained—a Bible, family photos, a jewelry box and a pink teddy bear for Hannah were among the items saved. Firefighters also were able to pick out the purse of one

of the women in the home.

Cheers went up from family, friends and neighbors each time something valuable was salvaged.

Wanda Carter, the daughter of Leland Wicker, cradled the large family Bible in her arms. She said her mother and father had stored baptism certificates, cards and photos between the pages of that Bible over the years.

"It means that God is still in control, and He knew we needed this for closure," she said, crying.

Carter said she spent from age 11 to 20 in the home, and she had to close her eyes as the home was knocked down.

"Thank you for all of the memories and life it gave us," she said.

The Rev. John Martin Bell of Shoals Baptist Church said he had been with the family all

morning. "We just prayed with them," he said. He added that all five who lived in the house—Bush, Wicker, Hannah and two others ages 50 and 45—were in need of support and prayers from the community.

Hillsborough County Administrator Mike Merrill said the remaining walls of the home would be knocked down Monday and then crews would turn to clearing the debris as much as possible to allow officials and engineers to see the sinkhole in the open. Officials also will determine what will happen to the two homes on either side of the now-demolished house; experts say the sinkhole has "compromised" those homes, but it's unclear whether steps can be taken to save them.

Expectant parents die in NY crash; infant survives

NEW YORK (AP)—The young couple, married just a year, were looking forward to welcoming their first child into their tight-knit community of Orthodox Jews. Now relatives and neighbors are left to raise their infant after the couple were killed early Sunday when a hit-and-run driver struck their car but doctors managed to save the unborn baby.

The driver of a BMW slammed into the livery cab carrying Nachman and Raizy Glauber, both 21, in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn as they headed to a hospital, said Isaac Abraham, a neighbor of Raizy Glauber's parents who lives two blocks from the scene of the crash.

The engine of the livery car ended up in the backseat, where Raizy Glauber, who was seven months pregnant, was sitting before she was ejected, Abraham said. Her body landed under a parked tractor-trailer, said witnesses who came to the scene after the crash. Nachman Glauber was pinned in the car, and emergency workers had to cut off the roof to get him out, witnesses said.

Both of the Glaubers were pronounced dead at hospitals, where doctors performed a cesarean section on the mother to deliver the baby. Both parents died of blunt-force trauma, the medical examiner said.

Their son was in serious con-

dition, Abraham said. Neighbors and friends said the boy weighed only about 4 pounds. The Glaubers' livery cab driver was treated for minor injuries at the hospital and was later released. Both the driver of the BMW and a passenger fled and were being sought, police said.

On Saturday, Raizy Glauber "was not feeling well, so they decided to go" to the hospital, said Sara Glauber, Nachman Glauber's cousin. Abraham said the Glaubers called a car service because they didn't own a car, which is common for New Yorkers.

The Glaubers were married about a year ago and had begun a life together in Williamsburg, where Raizy Glauber grew up in a prominent Orthodox Jewish rabbinical family, Sara Glauber said.

Raised north of New York City in Monsey, N.Y., and part of a family that founded a line of clothing for Orthodox Jews, Nachman Glauber was studying at a rabbinical college nearby, said his cousin.

Brooklyn is home to the largest community of ultra-Orthodox Jews outside Israel, more than 250,000. The community has strict rules governing clothing, social customs and interaction with the outside world. Men wear dark clothing that includes a long coat and a fedora-type hat and often have long beards and ear locks.

Biden leads re-enactment of voting rights march

SELMA, Ala. (AP)—The vice president and black leaders commemorating a famous civil rights march on Sunday said efforts to diminish the impact of African-Americans' votes haven't stopped in the years since the 1965 Voting Rights Act added millions to Southern voter rolls.

More than 5,000 people followed Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma's annual Bridge Crossing Jubilee.

The event commemorates the "Bloody Sunday" beating of voting rights marchers—includ-

ing a young Lewis—by state troopers as they began a march to Montgomery in March 1965. The 50-mile march prompted Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act that struck down impediments to voting by African-Americans and ended all-white rule in the South.

Biden, the first sitting vice president to participate in the annual re-enactment, said nothing shaped his consciousness more than watching TV footage of the beatings. "We saw in stark relief the rank hatred, discrimination and violence that still existed in large parts of the nation," he said.

Biden said marchers "broke the back of the forces of evil," but that challenges to voting rights continue today with restrictions on early voting and voter registration drives and enactment of voter ID laws where no voter fraud has been shown.

"We will never give up or give in," Lewis told marchers.

Jesse Jackson said Sunday's event had a sense of urgency because the U.S. Supreme Court heard a request Wednesday by a mostly white Alabama county to strike down a key portion of the Voting Rights Act.

"We've had the right to vote for 48 years, but they've never

stopped trying to diminish the impact of the votes," Jackson said.

Referring to the Voting Rights act, the Rev. Al Sharpton said: "We are not here for a commemoration. We are here for a continuation."

The Supreme Court is weighing Shelby County's challenge to a portion of the law that requires states with a history of racial discrimination, mostly in the Deep South, to get approval from the Justice Department before implementing any changes in election laws. That includes everything from new voting districts to voter ID laws.

Asia

6 police, 7 assailants killed amid Malaysian siege

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Gunmen ambushed and killed six Malaysian policemen as fears mounted that armed intruders from the southern Philippines had slipped into at least three coastal districts on Borneo island, officials said Sunday.

Six of the attackers were also fatally shot Saturday night, while another was beaten to death by angry villagers, escalating tensions in eastern Sabah state, where Malaysia's biggest security crisis in recent years began after about 200 members of a Philippine Muslim royal clan occupied a village last month to claim the territory as their own.

Security forces clashed with the clan members in the coastal area of Lahad Datu on Friday, leaving 12 Filipinos and two Malaysian police commandos dead.

The remaining clan members have refused to budge, while concerns have grown that other groups from the Philippines' restive southern provinces might enter Sabah, which shares a long and porous sea border with the Philippines that's difficult to patrol. The Malaysian and Philippine navies have strengthened their presence in waters near their border, according to Filipino officials.

A police team was attacked late Saturday while inspect-



A Malaysian police commando stands guard near the area where the stand-off with Filipino gunmen took place in Tanduo village, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia on Sunday, March 3, 2013.

ing a settlement in Semporna town, more than 150 kilometers (90 miles) from Lahad Datu, said national police chief Ismail Omar.

Six of the assailants were fatally shot by police at the settlement and another was beaten to death by villagers whom he apparently tried to take captive while armed with a rifle, said Sabah police chief Hamza Taib.

Police said they were also investigating sightings of armed foreigners in military-style clothing in a third Sabah seaside district nearby.

It was not clear whether the groups in the three areas had links to each other.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Sunday that army reinforcements have been sent to Sabah, adding that he was confident about their ability to control the situation.

The Filipinos who landed in Lahad Datu on Feb. 9 say ownership documents from the late 1800s prove the territory is theirs. They have rejected repeated calls from both the Malaysian and Philippine governments to leave Sabah, a short boat ride from the southern Philippines.

Police dropped leaflets by helicopter over the occupied village Saturday telling the Filipinos to give up, while the navy bolstered patrols in waters between Malaysia and the Philippines.

Three of the intruders tried to escape late Saturday and were

caught, Ismail said, without elaborating.

The standoff has raised territorial issues in Sabah and the southern Philippines to an immediate national security concern for both countries.

Malaysia's government, which faces a national election within less than four months, is under pressure to stop cross-border incursions that have resulted in occasional kidnappings by Filipino gunmen in past years.

It could affect how authorities deal with tens of thousands of Filipino migrants living in Sabah, including many undocumented workers, if they become perceived as threats to public safety. Any plan to deport them on a large scale, as Malaysia has sometimes attempted, would be a delicate diplomatic issue.

The crisis could also complicate peace talks brokered by Malaysia between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main Muslim rebel group in the southern Philippines.

Philippine diplomats in Malaysia deployed a team that includes a consul general and a police attache to Lahad Datu and sought access from Malaysian police for the group to help provide assistance to Filipinos who have been wounded and displaced by the violence. They urged jittery Filipino residents in Sabah to stay calm and avoid any action that might complicate the problem.

Car bomb kills 37, wounds 141 in southern Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A car bomb exploded outside a mosque on Sunday, killing 37 people and wounding another 141 in a Shiite Muslim dominated neighborhood in the southern Pakistan city of Karachi—the third mass casualty attack on the minority sect in the country this year.

No one has taken responsibility for the bombing, but Shiite Muslims have been increasingly targeted by Sunni militant groups in Karachi, Pakistan's economic hub and site of years of political, sectarian and ethnic violence, as well as other parts of the country.

The bomb exploded outside

a Shiite mosque as people were leaving evening prayers in Pakistan's largest city. Initial reports suggested the bomb was rigged to a motorcycle, but a top police official, Shabbir Sheikh, said later that an estimated 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of explosives were planted in a car.

Col. Pervez Ahmad, an official with a Pakistani paramilitary force called the Rangers, said a chemical used in the blast caught fire and spread the destruction beyond the blast site. Several buildings nearby were engulfed in flames.

Men and women wailed and ambulances rushed to the scene where residents tried to find vic-

tims buried in the rubble of collapsed buildings. The blast left a crater that was 2 meters (yards) wide and more than 1 meter (4 feet) deep.

"I was at home when I heard a huge blast. When I came out, I saw there was dust all around in the streets. Then I saw flames," said Syed Irfat Ali, a resident who described how people were crying and trying to run to safety.

A top government official, Taha Farooqi, said at least 37 people were confirmed dead and 141 more were wounded.

Sunni militant groups have stepped up attacks in the past year against Shiite Muslims who make up about 20 percent

of Pakistan's population of 180 million people. Sunni militants linked to al-Qaida and the Taliban view Shiites as heretics.

Tahira Begum, a relative of a blast victim, demanded the government take strict action against the attackers.

"Where is the government?" she asked during an interview with local Aaj News TV. "Terrorists roam free. No one dares to catch them."

It was the third large-scale attack against members of the minority sect so far this year. Two brazen attacks against a Shiite Hazara community in southwestern city of Quetta killed nearly 200 people since Jan. 10.

Thailand's prime minister vows to end ivory trade

BANGKOK (AP)—Facing the possibility of sanctions, Thailand's prime minister vowed for the first time to work toward ending her country's trade in ivory. But she gave no timeline for implementing a domestic ban, and conservationists warned that the unprecedented slaughter of elephants in Africa would continue until she does.

Thailand's internal ivory trade is currently legal, but wildlife groups say smuggled African tusks are mixed in with native stocks and skyrocketing demand here is helping fuel the worst poaching crisis in sub-Saharan

African in two decades.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra made the pledge during Sunday's opening meeting of the 178-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, in Bangkok.

She said her government would tighten local controls on Thailand's local tusk trade by systematically registering domestic elephants and ivory products. Then, "as a next step, we will work toward amending the national legislation with the goal of putting an end to (the) ivory trade and to be in line with international

norms," she said.

Yingluck gave no timeline, though, and Theerapat Prayurasiddhi, deputy director of Thailand's department of parks and wildlife, told The Associated Press there were no immediate plans to institute a domestic ban.

He said that could happen "step by step in the future—maybe," but called it "the long-term goal." For now, the government will focus on boosting measures to tighten domestic trade controls and slow the flow of African ivory from entering Thai markets.

Thai traders currently have the

right to buy or sell ivory obtained legally from domesticated stocks, and Theerapat said taking those rights away could be tantamount to the struggle to ban assault weapons in the United States.

"You cannot change everything overnight," he said. "It's going to take time."

Asked how Thailand's legislation might be amended, Theerapat said there was a push to add African elephants to Thailand's own lists of protected species, a move that would allow law enforcement to impose higher fines and harsher jail terms on smugglers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus rolls off highway in Nepal, killing 15 people

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A bus carrying a wedding party has rolled off a mountain highway in Nepal, killing 15 people and injuring another 22. Government administrator Navraj Baral says the bus veered off the Sidhartha highway near Chiripani village Sunday night and rolled for 300 meters (1,000 feet). Police and local villagers managed to help the injured and transport them to hospitals in nearby cities. Police are investigating the accident. Both the bride and groom survived the accident but are badly hurt.

Road crash in India kills driver, 9 schoolchildren

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police say nine school children and their driver died when their bus collided with a truck laden with bricks in northern India. Police officer Santokh Singh says the crash happened Monday as the children were on their way to school on the outskirts of Jalandhar. The city is nearly 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of

the Indian capital. Singh said seven children and the bus driver died on the spot and another two children succumbed to their injuries in a hospital.

Snow kills 8 in Japan, including family in car

TOKYO (AP)—Heavy snow that fell in northern Japan over the weekend killed eight people on Hokkaido island, including a family whose car became buried. Kazuyo Miyashita, 40, her two daughters Misa, 17, and Sayo, 14, and her son Daiki, 11, died at a hospital Saturday night of carbon-monoxide poisoning after their vehicle got buried in the snow, according to Kyodo news service. Separately, Haruna Kitagawa, 23, froze to death after leaving her car, stuck in the snow. A 53-year-old man died Sunday after getting buried in the snow, although his 9-year-old daughter found with him was recovering, Kyodo said. Also over the weekend, a 54-year-old man and a 76-year-old man were found collapsed in the snow in another part of Hokkaido, and both were confirmed dead, it said.

World

Egypt's army intervenes in Port Said clashes

PORT SAID, Egypt (AP)—The military intervened in clashes between thousands of protesters and police in a restive Egyptian canal city on Sunday, the latest in a cycle of violence that killed two security members and two civilians, and which continues to rock Egypt two years after the uprising that ousted longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak.

Also on Sunday, a court ruled that Mubarak will face a new trial next month on charges related to the killings of hundreds of protesters during the revolution that forced him from power.

Around 5,000 protesters threw rocks and firebombs at police in Port Said late Sunday, the scene of a civil strike now in its second week. Riot police responded with tear gas and bird shot in street battles that lasted for hours.

The battle outside the police and government buildings started early Sunday and continued until past midnight. At one point, Egyptian soldiers intervened by forming a line between the two sides, as protesters climbed the tanks chanting support for the country's armed forces that, unlike the police, have not cracked down on rioters in the city. "The people and the army are one hand!" the demonstrators shouted, urging the



In this Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 file photo, Egyptian protesters, unseen, block a road preventing loaded trucks from leaving the port with a banner in Arabic that reads, "fair retribution," during a general strike, in Port Said, Egypt.

soldiers to side with them.

Late on Sunday, the military spokesman denied that soldiers were firing at the police in a

short statement indicating the tense situation.

"The armed forces personnel are on the scene to protect

the government building and to separate the protesters and the interior ministry force," military spokesman Ahmed Mohammed

Ali said in a statement posted on his official Facebook page.

Health official Helmy el-Afani said 325 people were injured in

the clashes. Most suffered tear gas inhalation while others were wounded by bird shot. The Interior Ministry said one policeman was killed by gunfire, and one soldier and at least 10 policemen were wounded. A medical official in Port Said later said one of the policemen died of his gunshot wounds and two civilians were killed but the cause of their deaths was not immediately clear. He was speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Many residents of Port Said are demanding retribution for what they claim was excessive police force that led to the deaths of more than 40 civilians in late January. Most were killed during what the security forces said was an attempt by some to storm a prison there.

The embattled Interior Ministry, which oversees Egypt's police force, was unable to contain the anger in the city at the time and the president leaned on the military to protect key installations and buildings. Sunday was the first time the army intervened between police and protesters in Port Said since the military was put in charge of securing the city in late January. The police had all but disappeared since.

UK: Queen hospitalized over stomach illness

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was hospitalized Sunday over an apparent stomach infection that has ailed her for days, a rare instance of ill health sidelining the long-reigning monarch. Elizabeth will have to cancel a visit to Rome and other engagements as she recovers, and outside experts said she may have to be rehydrated intravenously.

Buckingham Palace said the 86-year-old queen had experienced symptoms of gastroenteritis and was being examined at London's King Edward VII Hospital—the first time in a decade that Elizabeth has been hospitalized.

"As a precaution, all official engagements for this week will regrettably be either postponed or cancelled," the palace said in a statement.



In this Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012 file photo, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II looks up and waves to members of staff of The Foreign and Commonwealth Office as she ends an official visit which is part of her Jubilee celebrations in London.

Elizabeth's two-day trip to Rome had been planned to start Wednesday. A spokes-

woman said the trip may be "reinstated" at a later date.

The symptoms of gastro-

enteritis—vomiting and diarrhea—usually pass after one or two days, although they can be more severe in older or otherwise vulnerable people. Dehydration is a common complication.

The illness was first announced Friday, and Elizabeth had to cancel a visit Swansea, Wales, on Saturday to present leeks—a national symbol—to soldiers of the Royal Welsh Regiment in honor of Wales' national day, St. David's Day. She instead spent the day trying to recover at Windsor Castle, but appears to have had trouble kicking the bug.

A doctor not involved in the queen's treatment said that if medical officials determined that she is losing too much fluid, she would be rehydrated intravenously.

Accused Scottish cardinal admits sexual failings

LONDON (AP)—A Scottish cardinal on Sunday acknowledged having engaged in unspecified sexual misbehavior, apologized for his actions, and promised to stay out of the church's public life in a statement that comes at an awkward time for the Vatican.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien had been Britain's highest-ranking Catholic leader until he resigned Monday from his position as archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, a departure prompt-

ed by a newspaper report about unnamed priests' allegations that he acted inappropriately toward them.

O'Brien initially rejected the claims, saying he was resigning because he did not want to distract from the upcoming conclave of cardinals that is due to pick a successor to Benedict XVI, who resigned the papacy Thursday. O'Brien also became the first cardinal to recuse himself from the conclave because of personal scandal; other vot-

ing-age cardinals have in the past stayed home because of infirmity or because they were prevented by their governments from participating.

On Sunday, the Catholic church in Scotland issued a statement quoting O'Brien as saying that there had been times "that my sexual conduct has fallen below the standards expected of me as a priest, archbishop and cardinal."

"To those I have offended, I apologize and ask forgiveness,"

the statement continued. "To the Catholic church and people of Scotland, I also apologize. I will now spend the rest of my life in retirement. I will play no further part in the public life of the Catholic church in Scotland."

O'Brien gave no clue as to what exactly his sexual misbehavior consisted of, but his statement is nonetheless another reminder of the church's struggle shake off a litany of sex scandals, including those involving pedophile priests.

Violent start in Kenyan election; police killed

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Five years after more than 1,000 people were killed in election-related violence, Kenyans on Monday began casting votes in a nationwide election seen as the country's most important—and complicated—in its 50-year history.

Police issued alerts late Sunday of impending attacks, and the violence began even before the voting. Police in the coastal city of Mombasa reported a 2 a.m. attack by a gang of dozens; early reports indicated several officers—perhaps four or five—were killed.

Multiple factors indicated violence was likely: The police said late Sunday that criminals were planning to dress in police uniforms and disrupt voting in some locations.

In addition, intelligence on the Somali-Kenya border indicated Somali militants planned to launch attacks; a secessionist group on the coast threatened—and perhaps already carried out—attacks; the tribes of the top two presidential candidates have a long history of tense relations; and 47 new governor races are being held, increasing the chances of electoral problems at the local level.

Perhaps most importantly, Uhuru Kenyatta, one of two top candidates for president, faces charges at the International Criminal Court for orchestrating the

2007-08 postelection violence. If he wins, the U.S. and Europe could scale back relations with Kenya, and Kenyatta may have to spend a significant portion of his presidency at The Hague.

Kenyatta's running mate, William Ruto, also faces charges at the ICC.

Kenyatta, a Kikuyu who is the son of Kenya's founding president, faces Raila Odinga, a Luo whose father was the country's first vice president. Polls show the two in a close race, with support for each in the mid-40-percent range. Eight candidates are running for president, making it likely Odinga and Kenyatta will be matched up in an April runoff, when tensions could be even higher.

Near the Somali border, Garissa County Commissioner Mohamed Ahmed Maalim said Sunday that officials intercepted communications that indicated terror attacks were planned, including explosive attacks and kidnappings. "They are planning to interrupt the elections, but we will not allow them do so," he said.

Maalim said soldiers are patrolling the region to prevent attacks from al-Shabab, the al-Qaida-linked Somali militant group. He said 300 specialized troops known as GSU are patrolling the Dadaab refugee camp, where more than 400,000 Somalis live.

Focus

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—A car that tells your insurance company how you're driving. A bathroom scale that lets you chart your weight on the Web. And a meter that warns your air conditioner when electricity gets more expensive. Welcome to the next phase of the wireless revolution.

The first wave of wireless was all about getting people to talk to each other on cellphones. The second will be getting things to talk to each other, with no humans in between. So-called machine-to-machine communication is getting a lot of buzz at this year's wireless trade show. Some experts believe these connections will outgrow the traditional phone business in less than a decade.

"I see a whole set of industries, from energy to cars to health to logistics and transportation, being totally redesigned," said Vittorio Colao, the CEO of Vodafone Group PLC, in a keynote speech at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. The British cellphone company has vast international interests, including its 45 percent ownership stake in Verizon Wireless.

Companies are promising that machine-to-machine, or M2M, technology will deliver all manner of services, from the prosaic to the world-changing. At U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc.'s booth here at the show, there's a coffeepot that can be ordered to start brewing from a tablet computer, or an Internet-connected alarm clock. A former president of Costa Rica is also at the show, talking about how M2M can save massive amounts of greenhouse gases by making energy use more efficient—enough to bring mankind halfway to the goal of halting global warming.

The M2M phenomenon is part of the larger drive to create an "Internet of Things"—a global network that not only links computers, tablets and phones but that connects everything from bikes to washing machines to thermostats. Machina Research, a British firm, believes there will be 12.5 billion "smart" connected devices, excluding phones, PCs and tablets, in the world in 2020, up from 1.3 billion today.

But how does this transformation happen, and who stands to profit?

First, the devices have to be able to connect. That's not a trivial undertaking, especially considering that people don't upgrade washing machines or renovate their homes as often as they change cellphones and PCs. One company at the show, a Los Angeles-based startup named Tethercell, has an ingenious solution for battery-powered devices: a "fake" AA battery that houses a smaller AAA battery in an electronic jacket. It can be placed in a battery



In this Feb. 26, 2013, photo man is pictured inside of a Car Volvo V60 P-IH at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain. AP

WIRELESS CONNECTIONS creep into everyday things

compartment with other batteries. Within a distance of 80 feet, some smartphones and tablets can then signal the "battery" to turn the device on or off. For instance, parents whose kids have a lot of noisy toys can turn all of them off with touch of a single button. A fire alarm could send a text-message warning that its battery is running low, rather than blaring an audio signal.

Unfortunately, a Tethercell from the first production run costs \$35. Co-founder Kellan O'Connor believes the price can come down to \$10, but that's still a non-trivial cost, and symptomatic of the high price of building out the Internet of Everything. For devices that need to connect at long range over a cellular network, the cost of radio components alone ranges from \$10 to \$70, according to analyst Dan Shey of ABI Research.

That's not expensive in the context of some big-ticket items, like cars, which have been forerunners when it comes to non-phone wireless connections. General Motors Corp. started equipping cars with OnStar wireless calling and assistance services in the mid-90s. At the show, it announced it is updating the service for faster data connections, enabling services like remote engine diagnostics and upgrades to the control software. AT&T Inc., which has been aggressive about getting into the M2M business, is ousting Verizon Wireless as the network provider for OnStar.

Colao, the CEO of Vodafone, gave an example of another "smart" car application that might seem intrusive to some: the company has been trying out a service in Italy that lets an auto insurance company know how much a car is being used, and

charges premiums accordingly. It can also score the driver based on his or her driving style, and give pointers on how to handle the car more safely.

Cellular connections are creeping into smaller, cheaper devices. Ecooltra, which rents out electric scooters by the day in Spain, wants to connect them to the Internet, which would let renters figure out through their phones where there's a scooter for rent and how much of a charge is in its battery. The feature is perfect for quick, impromptu rentals by the hour. Adding "smarts" to the scooters in the shape of a cellular modem would turn the company from a conventional rental service to a "scooter-sharing" business, much like car-sharing services like Zipcar.

Once devices are connected, the next problem is getting them to talk to each other, and making sense of what they're saying.

ABI's Shey says this is the real business opportunity in M2M, more valuable than making the modems or providing the wireless connections. He believes that's driving a behind-the-scenes scramble of deal-making at the show, as companies like AT&T seek to bolster their ability to support M2M by acquiring companies that provide a "middle layer" of software between the devices and their owners.

For connections between devices in the home, like that remote-controlled coffee-pot, Qualcomm touts its AllJoyn project, which it seeks to make an industry standard. Currently, the main ways for devices to connect to each other and figure out what they can do, like Bluetooth and DLNA, are too limited and difficult to use, said Rob Chandhok, president of Qualcomm Innovation Center.

With AllJoyn, "there's nothing

to stop you from making a speaker that listens for notifications and turns them into speech, so you hear, 'Hey, you left the refrigerator door open!'" Chandhok said. "You take very simple things and connect them, and people build experiences on top of them. That's what we're trying to do."

Jose Maria Figueres, the former president of Costa Rica, is now the president of the Carbon War Room, an organization co-founded by billionaire Richard Branson to promote cutbacks in greenhouse-gas emissions through smart private enterprise. Figueres believes M2M has huge potential to wring efficiency out of energy-guzzling activities, and could reduce emissions equivalent to 9.1 billion tons of carbon dioxide by 2020—roughly equal to the combined emissions of India and the U.S. today.

Overdrive

2013 ACURA ILX



- > Base price: **\$26,795**
- > Interior space: 101.7 cubic feet

The front-wheel-drive ILX looks luxurious, and its cabin is trimmed to the usual Acura standards. But to make this premium compact opulent, you must order at least one of two packages, which makes it pricey considering the ILX's 150-horsepower engine and five-speed automatic transmission are little better than the Civic's.

2013 CADILLAC ATS



- > Base price: **\$33,990**
- > Interior space: 101 cubic feet

The ATS is not just the smallest Cadillac in 32 years; it's also meant to challenge Germany's best compacts—and, remarkably, it does. Skeptical? Sling it through a corner and you'll find the rear-wheel-drive ATS predictably, precisely and securely communicates its intentions. The base four-cylinder engine is adequate, if a bit vibratory.

2013 AUDI A3 2.0T



- > Base price: **\$28,165**
- > Interior space: 109 cubic feet

Audi's upscale five-door hatchback is overshadowed by the pricier A4 sedan, but the A3 boasts a practical hatchback configuration, front-wheel drive and a peppy 200-hp turbocharged four-cylinder engine. A six-speed manual is standard; a six-speed automatic is an extra \$1,520. But at this price, you won't get heated seats or Bluetooth.

2013 LEXUS CT 200H



- > Base price: **\$32,945**
- > Interior space: 100 cubic feet

Like some other vehicles here, the CT 200h uses components from a less-expensive sibling under its skin. In this case, it's the Toyota Prius. Not surprisingly, the CT 200h's performance is identical, but the Lexus feels more robust. And its opulent interior makes up for its cozy backseat. Indeed, the CT 200h is a unique proposition among entry-level cars.

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Luxury in an affordable package

Can a small car be a luxury car? It may sound like an oxymoron, but high-end manufacturers don't think so. In an effort to meet future federal fuel economy requirements, premium automakers are creating some of their smallest vehicles ever.

Many of these models start at less than \$35,000; a couple start at less than \$30,000, about the same price as a fully loaded, mass-market midsize sedan. So what do you get for less than \$35,000,

including destination charge?

You don't get a Lincoln, Land Rover, Jaguar or Infiniti; their least-expensive vehicles are costlier.

You can get a vehicle with a fair bit of prestige, but it's unusual to find a stripped, base car at any luxury dealership. These vehicles are usually missing items luxury buyers expect, so you're more likely to find that most vehicles have options that can push the price above \$35,000.

Still, if you want the prestige of a luxury badge, they're worth considering over something more pedestrian.

2013 BMW X1 SDRIVE28I



- > Base price: **\$31,695**
- > Interior space: 123 cubic feet

BMW's least-expensive vehicle is not a sports sedan; it's a compact crossover SUV. But fear not, BMW fans, the X1 is based on the athletic, but cramped, 1 Series coupe. The X1 solves the space problem, although at this price, you get rear-wheel-drive, not four-wheel-drive. And be careful with options; the X1 can get pricey.

2014 MERCEDES-BENZ CLA250



- > Base price: **\$29,995** (estimated)
- > Interior space: Not listed

Come fall, Mercedes-Benz will offer its first front-wheel-drive compact sedan in the U.S. market. Looking like a CLS that was left in the dryer too long, the stylish CLA250 will be powered by a 208-horsepower, turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, paired with a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. Four-wheel drive is optional.

2013 BUICK VERANO



- > Base price: **\$23,975**
- > Interior space: 105 cubic feet

If you're brave enough to enter a Buick showroom and try one, you'll find the Verano is not a soft-riding boat. This front-wheel-drive compact sedan's responsive 180-horsepower four-cylinder engine is rewarding to drive, while its finely tuned ride and hushed interior adds to the premium feel you'd expect. This car will surprise you.

2013 VOLVO C30 T5



- > Base price: **\$27,995**
- > Interior space: 104.5 cubic feet

This subcompact is one of the most overlooked cars in its class. That might be because of its cozy rear seat. Still, the turbocharged five-cylinder engine and six-speed manual transmission provides decent power to the front wheels. And its design, a mix of new and classic styling, will ensure you never lose it in a parking lot.

Life & Style

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHFORD, Ireland (AP)—If historical fiction guru Michael Hirst has his way, a legendary Viking raider named Ragnar soon will conquer North America on behalf of the History channel.

History's ambitious Dark Ages drama "Vikings," which debuted Sunday after five months of filming in Ireland, dramatizes the myth-cloaked story of Ragnar Lothbrok, leader of a Viking people typically depicted as horn-helmeted brutes.

Here's one pointed clue that "Vikings" aims to smash a few stereotypes along with English skulls: There's not a horned head in sight because real Vikings never actually wore them.

This lavishly produced nine-parter, the biggest production ever commissioned by History with a reported budget of \$40 million, seeks to get viewers rooting for the Norsemen even as they butcher defenseless Christians and loot their way through Europe. With a cast including Gabriel Byrne, the series debuted on History Sunday at 10 p.m. EST after another big History miniseries, "The Bible."

"It's always been in the background of my mind to do a Viking project," said Hirst, whose reputation as a master of history-based drama has grown from his days as screenwriter of 1998's film "Elizabeth" to his creation of the 2007-10 Showtime series "The Tudors" about the life, times and ill-fated brides of Henry VIII.

Speaking to The Associated Press during the final weeks of shooting, in a rain-soaked ash forest in the Wicklow hills south of Dublin, Hirst said he loved poring over the history of an ill-understood person or period, then weaving it into compelling entertainment.

Hirst, the showrunner and executive producer of "Vikings" as well as its sole writer, found working with 8th-century Scandinavian warriors a liberating experience because, while there's such rich legend in Norse culture, there's simply no written history from the illiterate Vikings' point of view.

"By definition, not as much is known about the Dark Ages. This is particularly true of the Vikings who were pagans and didn't write anything down," he said as, in the distance, actors on horseback worked on a scene of Ragnar taking his son on a mission to a magical tree, one facet of Norse religious belief. "Because not a huge amount is known, that gives me some

liberty. But I like working from historical material. I always start projects by reading as much research as possible."

"Vikings" employs much of the same Irish talent pool that crafted "The Tudors," including production designer Tom Conroy and costume designer Joan Bergin, both Emmy winners for their "Tudors" creativity. It's the first production to use Ireland's brand-new Ashford Studios, where Conroy oversaw the construction of a Norse temple to the gods of Odin, Thor and Loki using design ideas distilled from trips to Scandinavian archaeology museums.

On the nearby shores of Lough Tay, the filmmakers set the actors loose on a 56-foot reconstruction of a dragon-headed Viking longboat. Wicklow's relatively gentle, sloping hills did have to be manipulated with CGI technology into cliff-faced, snow-capped fjords. But other scenes of Irish rural beauty, such as the Powerscourt waterfall, feature prominently without alteration.

For all the show's stunning scenery and attention to production detail, its success or failure will hinge on the appeal of its characters. They may each be cleverly based on actual Viking warriors and deities, but that won't mean much to an audience that mostly doesn't know a Valkyrie from Valhalla.

The biggest-name cast members are Gabriel Byrne ("In Treatment," "The Usual Suspects"), who portrays a ruthless chieftain threatened by Ragnar's ambition and popularity, and Jessalyn Gilsig ("Nip/Tuck"; Mrs. Schuester on "Glee") as his mercilessly power-lusting wife.

"Vikings" offers more of a showcase for a quartet of lesser-known actors: Clive Standen, a 6-foot-2 Englishman whose skills in kickboxing, sword fighting and stunt work complement his portrayal of Ragnar's hard-fighting brother Rollo; George Blagden as the doe-eyed Saxon monk whom Ragnar kidnaps, enslaves and ultimately befriends; Gustaf Skarsgaard, a son of Sweden's best-known acting family, as a boat-building genius and uber-eccentric named Floki; and perhaps above all Canadian-born Katheryn Winnick as Ragnar's

TV's new drama 'Vikings' sheds light on Dark Ages



This image shows Travis Fimmel as Ragnar, center, in a scene from "Vikings," which premiered Sunday, March 3, on History.

AP

gorgeous warrior wife, who in real life has two martial-arts black belts and looks more than able to fight alongside the men as a "shield maiden."

But oh yes, Ragnar: Who's he?

In the production's biggest gamble, it's an Australian actor named Travis Fimmel, who shot to magazine and billboard fame a decade ago as Calvin Klein's most highly paid male underwear model. His acting career since has been humble. Interviewed on set between takes, he punctuates every other sentence with "mate" and parrys each question with a quip.

"Nobody knows me. I'm just a guy with a silly haircut," said Fimmel, who for his role has shaved his hair into a Mohawk topped by an artificial braided ponytail, and a tattoo of a raven on one side of his mostly naked scalp. But just one tattoo, he kids: "It's a budget thing. Can't afford two."

There's no doubt Fimmel looks fine on horseback or skewering an enemy with his broadsword. He's a confident physical performer and—more Fimmel self-deprecation here—suggests he likes the sword fighting best "because you don't have to remember lines while you're doing it."

But it's an open question as to whether he has the dramatic chops to make audiences believe in his declared quest for knowledge, riches and power.

Fimmel himself sounds unsure when asked if "Vikings" will win enough of a following to fight into a second season. "No idea man, it's up to the audience and the suits," he said.

But Hirst sees a complex soul in Fimmel, whose self-made audition tape persuaded Hirst to dump another better-established—and unnamed—actor who was within hours of signing on as Ragnar.

"I wanted someone who can fight, but who has depth in their eyes, because this guy Ragnar's a thinker, not just an action man. We were getting desperate."

In Celebration of His New Life

†Jesus Reyes Tenorio

Lovingly known as "Korason/Dagu"
October 26, 1941 – March 01, 2013

In His New Life He Now Joins His:

Father: †Jose Pangelinan Tenorio (Korason)
Mother: †Adela Cabrera Reyes San Nicolas
Stepfather: †Andres Aceo San Nicolas

Father-in-law: †Jose Cepeda Agulto

Mother-in-law: †Carmen Pangelinan Agulto

Sisters/Brothers/In-laws:

†Emiling T./ †Antonio C. Lizama,
†Juana T. Indalecio,
†Consolacion P. Tenorio,
†Maria R. San Nicolas,
†Joseph R. San Nicolas,
†Ana P. Aldan

His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of His:

Wife: Josephine Pangelinan Tenorio

Children/In-laws/Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren: Edwin Arnold/Honora S. Tenorio (Adela/Joseph Dela Rosa: Marissa, Honarie, Madison); Jesus Tenorio/Crystal Benavente (Chenae); Edwin Tenorio II/Jackie Castro; Maggie Tenorio; Lucille Tenorio/Isaac Aguon (Josephine Stephanie, Destynee Isa)

Reared Children: Vincent Keith A. Aldan (Keith, Carmen Joevin); Celina A./Roy Reyes (Catherine, Rico Roy); Emy Ilarte/Dionicio Bernabe (Emerson, Jennilyn); Vicente A. Masga

Brothers/Sisters-in-laws: Vicente/Margarita Agulto and Family; Vicente/Antonia Aldan and Family; Margarita/Jose Borja and Family; Ramon/Dalia Agulto and Family; Virginia/Jose Cruz and Family; Luis/Dolores Agulto and Family; Dolores S. Celis and Family; Mariano Indalecio and Family

Aunts/Uncle: Concepcion T. Sablan (Pitu), Maria R. Cruz, Agueda P. Sablan, Alfonso C. Reyes

Daily Mass of Intentions is offered at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church followed by Holy Rosary at 06:30 pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 09, 2013. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 07:30 am.

Responso Service will be at 08:00 am followed by Holy Rosary at 08:30 am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am. followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where He will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Josephine Pangelinan Tenorio, Children and Families

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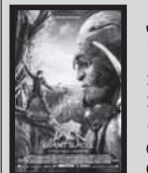
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\$6.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$6.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
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Jack The Giant Slayer 3D

Friday		7:20
Saturday	1:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs		7:20

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

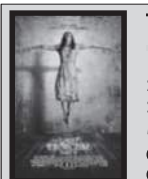
Eagle Eye director D.J. Caruso helms a dramatic interpretation of the classic Jack and the Beanstalk tale with this New Line Cinema production. Darren Lemke and Mark Bombback provide the script for the Neal Moritz/David Dobkin-produced fantasy drama.



Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	4:20	9:50
Saturday	4:20	9:50
Sunday	4:20	
Mon through Thurs	4:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Last Exorcism II

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

As Nell Sweetzer tries to build a new life after the events of the first movie, the evil force that once possessed her returns with an even more horrific plan.



21 and Over

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25	7:25	

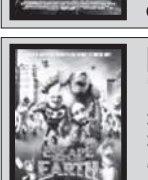
Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Snitch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:10	

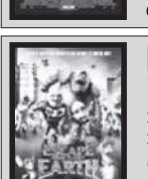
Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	4:00	9:45
Saturday	4:00	9:45
Sunday	4:00	
Mon through Thurs	4:00	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday		7:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00
Mon through Thurs		7:00

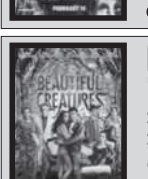
Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Good Day To Die Hard

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R



Beautiful Creatures

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Husband and wife behind 'The Bible' miniseries



This publicity image released by History shows Diogo Morgado as Jesus, center, being baptized by Daniel Percival, as John, in a scene from "The Bible," which premiered Sunday, March 3, at 8 p.m. EST on History.

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Burnett was taken aback by the scale of what his wife, actress Roma Downey, had in mind when she suggested over tea one morning four years ago that they make a television miniseries based on the Bible.

"Momentarily, I think he thought I'd lost my mind," Downey recalled. "He went out on his bicycle and he prayed on it and he came back and said, 'You know what, I think it's a good idea. I think we should do it together.' We shook hands and haven't looked back."

The series debuted on History Sunday (8pm EST), the first of five two-hour chunks that will air each weekend. The finale airs on Easter Sunday.

Different stories in the Bible have been Hollywood fodder for years. Burnett, the prolific producer behind "Survivor" and "The Voice," said no one had tried to tie it all together and use modern computer graphics to bring images like Moses parting the Red Sea to life on screen.

Instead of being all-encompassing, they tried to concentrate on stories in depth and on characters who would emotionally engage the audience. The first episode illustrates the wisdom of that approach: it flounders at the start with a discussion about the world's creation but becomes more gripping when the emphasis turns to the lives of Abraham and Moses.

Burnett said he believes there's a growing "Biblical illiteracy" among young people.

"It's like saying you never heard of Macbeth or King Lear," he said. "In school, you have to know a certain amount of Shakespeare, but no Bible. So there's got to be a way to look at it from a pure literature point of view. If it wasn't for the Bible, arguably Shakespeare wouldn't have written those stories."

Downey, the former star of "Touched By an Angel," said she wanted to be part of some-

thing that would glorify God.

After pitching their idea to several networks, Burnett and Downey found a fit with Nancy Dubuc, History's president and general manager. She likes the challenge of ideas that seem unwieldy. History made the 2010 miniseries "America the Story of Us," which was a big hit, and 2012's "Mankind the Story of All of Us," which wasn't. Last spring's miniseries on the Hatfields and McCoys was an eye-opening success.

Burnett and Downey have been building anticipation for "The Bible" by previewing it at churches and for religious leaders. Rick Warren, Joel Osteen and Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, have all endorsed the work.

"The faith community is going to sample it, unquestionably," Dubuc said. "Whether they stay or go remains with the TV gods. Our job has been to present this as an epic tale of adventure."

History's own campaign is not targeting a religious audience, emphasizing some of the dramatic scenes to suggest that audiences won't be preached to.

The screening that Downey and Burnett have sweated the most was when their teenage children showed it to some friends.

"We knew that we could make it heartfelt," Downey said. "We knew we could make it faithful. But we wanted to be sure that we could make it cool."

Downey spent nearly half of 2012 in Morocco supervising filming, beginning in the cold of February and ending in the blistering heat of July. "We wanted it to be gritty and authentic," she said. "We didn't want it to look like somebody had just stepped out of the dry cleaners."

Her husband flew back and forth to the United States, where he would work on his other programs. Downey said she initially had no intention of appearing onscreen, but stepped in when they had trouble casting an actress for an older Mary, mother of Jesus.

Except for Downey, few of the actors involved are well known in the United States. Portuguese TV star Diogo Morgado portrays Jesus Christ, and many of the other lead actors are based in Britain.

The television airing of "The

Bible" on History is only the beginning for this project. Lifetime will air a repeat each week after a new episode appears on History. It will air internationally, and a DVD package will go on sale this spring. The series' scripts are bound together into a book. Producers will make a theatrical release movie of a portion of the story, and are looking at showing it in stadiums this fall. Burnett and Downey have also reached a deal to make parts of the film available as part of a religious education curriculum for churches.

"More people will watch this than any of our other series combined over the next three decades," Burnett said.

Even better, their marriage survived the grueling process intact—even stronger, Downey said.

"Nobody has taken on the broad vision from Genesis to Revelation, and I think we probably realized at midpoint why no one had done it before," she said. "It was maddeningly complicated and extraordinarily hard work. We approached it humbly, but we were exhilarated by it."

Spain's king gets spine surgery

MADRID (AP)—King Juan Carlos of Spain successfully underwent surgery for herniated discs in his lower spine at a Madrid hospital on Sunday, the royal palace said.

The operation took about three hours and "proved entirely satisfactory," the palace said. It was the 75-year-old's fourth operation in 12 months, and the 12th time he has undergone surgery during his lifetime.

Neurosurgeon Manuel de la Torre, who performed the operation, told reporters that it would take between two and six months for the king to recover. The head of state would likely remain in the hospital for

around a week, he said, adding that two of the king's spinal segments had been involved.

On his arrival at the La Merced clinic, the monarch lowered his passenger-side car window and said, "Here I am again," to journalists and television cameras gathered outside.

Juan Carlos had hip surgery last November and has suffered several other health issues in the past two years, including needing knee surgery and the removal of a benign lung tumor.

It has not been a good year for the king, who has largely been admired for his role in helping steer Spain to democracy after a long period

of military dictatorship under General Francisco Franco.

The monarch's son-in-law, Inaki Urdangarin, who is married to the king's second daughter, Princess Cristina, is under investigation on suspicion of having used his position to embezzle several million dollars in public contracts assigned to a supposedly nonprofit foundation he set up.

And Juan Carlos was vilified last year after breaking his hip while on a luxurious African safari to hunt elephants at a time when ordinary Spaniards were being buffeted by an economy entering its second recession in three years.

Van Cliburn remembered as gifted pianist

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Legendary pianist Van Cliburn was remembered Sunday as a gifted musician who transcended the boundaries of politics and art by easing tensions during the Cold War and introducing classical music to millions.

About 1,400 people attended a memorial service for Cliburn, who died Wednesday at age 78 after fighting bone cancer. As the service began, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra accompanied a choir while pall bearers carried his flower-covered coffin into a Fort Worth church.

Several speakers referred to what made Cliburn famous: winning the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1958, when he was just 23. At the height of the Cold War, the win by the pianist who grew up in Texas helped thaw the icy rivalry between the United States and Soviet Union.

"Over the course of many years, during the most difficult historical times, the art of Van Cliburn brought together people from different countries, different continents and united them," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a statement that was read during the service. "We shall always remember Van Cliburn as a true and sincere friend of the Russian people."

Former President George W. Bush told mourners that Soviets at the competition didn't find the expected stereotypical Texas cowboy but a gracious, humble young man who was "beloved, even by the enemy." Cliburn continued to spread peace and love through his music, Bush said.



This July 12, 2003 file photo shows pianist Van Cliburn after performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra as the Orchestra plays "Happy Birthday," on his 69th birthday at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass.

"Members of the presidents' club could have taken a lesson from him in diplomacy," said Bush, who presented Cliburn with the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian honor—in 2003.

After the Moscow win, Cliburn returned to a hero's welcome and a ticker-tape parade in New York City—the first ever for a classical musician. A Time magazine cover proclaimed him "The Texan Who Conquered Russia." Cliburn's popularity soared, and he sold out concerts

and caused riots when he was spotted in public.

As a result, Cliburn introduced Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff to a younger generation—those who may never have heard or liked classical music, said Juilliard School President Joseph Polisi.

Cliburn played for every U.S. president from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Barack Obama, plus royalty and heads of state worldwide.

"I am confident that the enduring beauty of his art will sustain his legendary status for years to come," Obama said in a statement

that was read during the service.

Cliburn also used his skill and fame to help other young musicians through the Van Cliburn International Music Competition, held every four years. Created in 1962 by a group of Fort Worth teachers and citizens, it remains among the top showcases for the world's best pianists. The next competition, to be held in May and June, is being dedicated to Cliburn's memory.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Cliburn helped keep the state at the center of the arts "and in that way, Van lives on."

Cliburn was born Harvey Lavon Cliburn Jr. on July 12, 1934, in Shreveport, Louisiana, the son of oilman Harvey Cliburn Sr. and Rildia Bee O'Bryan Cliburn. At age 3, he began studying piano with his mother, herself an accomplished pianist who had studied with a pupil of the great 19th century Hungarian pianist Franz Liszt.

The family moved back to the east Texas town of Kilgore within a few years of his birth.

Cliburn won his first Texas competition when he was 12, and two years later he played in Carnegie Hall as the winner of the National Music Festival Award. At 17, Cliburn attended the Juilliard School in New York. Between 1952 and 1958, he won all but one competition he entered. By age 20, he had played with the New York Philharmonic and the symphonies of most major cities.

Despite his phenomenal success over five decades, Cliburn remained humble and gracious, friends said.

San Francisco's 'other' bridge prepares to shine

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—After more than 75 years in the shadow of its glamorous cousin, San Francisco's "other" bridge is getting a chance to shine.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge has been turned into the latest—and by far the biggest—backdrop for New York artist Leo Villareal, who has individually programmed 25,000 white lights spaced a foot (30 centimeters) apart on 300 of the span's vertical cables to create what is being billed as the world's largest illuminated sculpture.

Villareal, 46, whose previous installations have included an underground walkway at the National Gallery of Art and the Bleecker Street subway station in Manhattan, is scheduled to flip the switch on "The Bay Lights" with a click of his laptop computer on Tuesday at 9 p.m. (0500 GMT Wednesday). Donors attending a private waterfront reception will see it set to music, but the work, which uses sequences of shifting light to produce an almost-infinite array of abstract patterns, will be visible

to anyone with a view of the western half of the bridge for at least the next two years.

"People are attracted to light and they will respond in a variety of ways, even if they don't know anything about art, programming or technology," he said one evening late last month while fine-tuning the shimmering display from a pier next to San Francisco's Ferry Building. "It's really a wonderful piece of public art."

For Ben Davis, a San Francisco public relations and communica-

tions professional who conceived of the idea of turning the busy Bay Bridge into a 1.8-mile (2.9-million kilometer)-long canvas, the \$8 million project represents a long-overdue celebration of a conduit that has been eclipsed by the Golden Gate Bridge almost from the time its concrete set. It opened to great acclaim in November 1936—at the time it was the world's longest and most expensive bridge—but lost the limelight with the opening of the majestic Golden Gate five months later.

'Giant Slayer' scares up ho-hum \$28 million debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It wasn't exactly a mighty victory, but "Jack the Giant Slayer" won the weekend at the box office.

The Warner Bros. 3-D action extravaganza, based on the Jack and the Beanstalk legend, made just \$28 million to debut at No. 1, according to Sunday studio estimates. It had a reported budget of just under \$200 million.

But the studio also hit a milestone on the global front with Peter Jackson's fantasy epic "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" crossing the \$1 billion mark worldwide. The first of three films based on the classic J.R.R. Tolkien novel has made

\$301.1 domestically and \$700 million internationally.

"Jack the Giant Slayer" comes from Bryan Singer, director

Stanley Tucci.

Among other new releases, the college romp "21 & Over" from Relativity Media made

1. **"Jack the Giant Slayer,"** \$28 million. (\$13.7 million international.)
2. **"Identity Thief,"** \$9.7 million.
3. **"21 & Over,"** \$9 million.
4. **"The Last Exorcism Part II,"** \$8 million.
5. **"Snitch,"** \$7.7 million.
6. **"Escape From Planet Earth,"** \$6.7 million.
7. **"Safe Haven,"** \$6.3 million.
8. **"Silver Linings Playbook,"** \$5.9 million.
9. **"A Good Day to Die Hard,"** \$4.5 million. (\$18.3 million international.)
10. **"Dark Skies,"** \$3.6 million.

of "The Usual Suspects" and the first two "X-Men" movies. It stars Nicholas Hoult, Ewan McGregor, Ian McShane and

only \$9 million this weekend to open in third place. And the horror sequel "The Last Exorcism Part II" from CBS Films

debuted in fourth place with just over \$8 million.

Internationally, "A Good Day to Die Hard," the fifth film in the blockbuster Bruce Willis franchise, was the big winner of the weekend with \$18.3 million for a global total of nearly \$222 million.

Among the few bright spots, the Jason Bateman-Melissa McCarthy comedy "Identity Thief" has become the first film to cross the \$100 million mark this year. Now in its fourth week in theaters, the Universal movie has made \$107.4 million.

Find good company in solitude through an active imagination

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are expecting our first child (a boy) later this year. How do I teach my son to enjoy solitude and his own company? Too many people today turn on the radio or TV because they can't appreciate the quiet.

I want my little one to have loving friends, but also periods of quiet, reflective fun time by himself. My husband and I grew up with siblings, but he hates solitude while I find lots of activities to do by myself. I am never lonely. What's the difference between solitude and loneliness?

Dear Abby

SOLITARY WOMAN IN OTTAWA, CANADA

DEAR SOLITARY WOMAN: The difference between solitude and loneliness depends on how an individual handles being alone. Some people find silence threatening, while others—like yourself—need it to recharge their batteries.

For your son to be at ease when he's alone, ration his television time. Read to him so he'll learn to appreciate the entertainment books provide. Give him items to play with that foster creativity, such as clay, paints and paper, a cardboard box he can pretend is a playhouse or a spaceship. (You may find he prefers it to whatever toy the carton contained.) If he's encouraged to use it, his imagination will flourish.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law, "Earl," is an alcoholic and an avid gun enthusiast. He owns many weapons; I don't know the exact number. He has been accumulating ammunition at an accelerated rate because he's afraid that large clips will soon be banned. He drinks to excess and becomes belligerent and angry when drunk.

Last summer, during one of his moments of inebriation, he shot a gun into the air as a "surprise" to the eight family members who were sitting within two to 10 feet of him. He takes pride in the fact that his guns are kept loaded, as "what good is an unloaded gun?" On two separate occasions, I know for a fact that a loaded gun was found unsecured in his home.

When my husband and I travel with our children, ages 7, 5 and 4, to visit his family, we stay in Earl's home. I feel the combination of alcohol and loaded, unsecured guns is not safe for my children. I have suggested to my husband that we stay in a hotel during our visits from now on. The problem is, my husband is unable to stand up to his father. He told me that when he tried talking to him about his concerns, Earl called him a "wimp."

Please tell me how to get through to my husband. I don't want to alienate his family, and I do want my children to have a relationship with their grandfather.

GUN-SHY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR GUN-SHY: I'm sorry to say that your father-in-law may have your husband pegged accurately. A man who would allow his small children to stay in the home of an alcoholic who keeps unsecured, loaded weapons around is a wimp. There are responsible gun owners, and there are individuals like your alcohol-soaked in-law, who seem to have never learned that a bullet fired into the air must fall down somewhere and could kill or injure someone.

Your husband doesn't have to "stand up" to his father. All he has to do is make a hotel reservation and be sure the children spend no unsupervised time with Grandpa. To do anything less is child endangerment. Because your husband is unwilling to be the strong one, the responsibility for your children's lives now falls to you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Heat rally past Knicks, win 14th straight



NEW YORK
(AP)—LeBron James stretched his arm above the rim, soaring high on a shaky knee and turning his steal into a finishing dunk as Carmelo Anthony hung his head near midcourt.

The Heat took the Knicks' best shot, but it wasn't good enough to beat the defending champs.

Nothing is right now.

James had 29 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, and Miami tied a franchise record with its 14th straight victory, rallying for a 99-93 victory at New York on Sunday.

"We feel like this is one of our better wins of the season, even under the circumstances that we went through tonight, a little adversity being down double digits," James said.

Dwyane Wade added 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Heat, who had to overcome a 16-point deficit to beat the Knicks for the first time in three tries this season. Chris Bosh bounced back from a dismal first half to finish with 16 points and Shane Battier hit all four 3-point attempts to score 12.

The Heat won their sixth straight on the road by controlling the final minutes against a team that had a pair of 20-point victories over them this season and looked ready to run them out of the building again.

But James shook off a third-quarter leg injury and was back in top form by the finish, putting it away by coming up with a steal and throwing down a dunk with 23 seconds left.

"Obviously, it's great to win games, period. But when you're on a win streak, you've got to find many different ways to win ballgames and we've had comebacks in the last seconds, we've had double-overtime games, but this was probably the most thrilling one," Wade said. "It was the most challenging. For a team who beat us twice, they handled us twice and they were up 16 in the first half, for us to have the resilience to come back, find a way fight out this win, it was great."

Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points for the Knicks, who had won three in a row. Jason Kidd emerged from a lengthy slump to finish with 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists. J.R. Smith had 13 points and 12 rebounds, but shot 5 of 18 from the field.

"I think we are disappointed because we had an opportunity to win a ballgame here at home against the champs," Kidd said. "So it's something we can look at and get better at with those mistakes, especially later in the game."

The Heat matched their 14 straight wins during the 2004-05 season and finally beat one of their closest pursuers in the Eastern Conference after dropping their first four against the Knicks and Indiana Pacers.



New York Knicks center Tyson Chandler, left, defends as Miami Heat forward LeBron James, right shoots during the second half of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, March 3, 2013.

James landed awkwardly when he was fouled trying to catch a lob pass in the third quarter and was trying afterward to loosen his left knee or leg. He looked fine in the closing minutes, making key plays on both ends of the floor.

"His motor is limitless. I don't want to take that for granted. I don't just want to assume that he can play 40-plus minutes, but he had to do it on both ends," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Couldn't get him out in the fourth quarter and if I would have tried, he probably would have strangled me."

"He was strong and was at his strongest after 40 minutes of basketball."

Bosh tied it at 87 and Wade's basket with 4:29 left gave Miami the lead for good. James then blocked Tyson Chandler at the rim and hustled down the floor to put back a Miami miss, making it 91-87.

The Knicks twice were within two, but James scored on a drive the second time. Bosh followed with a jumper for a 97-91 advantage, and after two free throws by Raymond Felton, James ended the Knicks' final hopes when he stepped in front of a pass headed toward Anthony and broke in alone for the slam.

"They kind of walked us down towards the end," Anthony said. "We made some mistakes, turned the ball over,

and then that turnover was probably just the icing on the cake right there."

James said he felt the knee a little bit during the game, but expected to be in uniform Monday at Minnesota.

The Knicks beat Miami here by 20 in their season opener and won again in Miami in early December by 20, even while playing without Anthony because of a cut on his finger that required stitches.

This looked headed for another blowout.

Kidd missed his 14 3-point attempts in the last three games and had been in a 7-for-49 slump behind the arc since Feb. 1, finally losing his starting job before Friday's victory at Washington.

But he made a 3 early in the second quarter, then hit three more in the period. The Knicks rattled off eight points in a row to make it 59-43, their only concern coming when Anthony went to the locker room before the half ended with what the team said was pain in his ribs. He was back when the second half started and said the injury didn't bother him.

The Knicks' two victories over the Heat came during their 18-5 start, when they seemed championship capable. But they are just 17-16 since, and Miami's a far different team now than it was in December.

Bosh had eight quick points in

the third quarter after a two-point, 1-of-6 first half. Miami scored the last six of the period, cutting it to 77-73 on Battier's 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds to go.

Miami finally caught up at 79-all when James nailed his second straight 3-pointer, stomping his feet forcefully as he walked away following the second with 10:04 to play.

Thunder 108, Clippers 104

In Los Angeles, Kevin Durant scored 35 points, Russell Westbrook had 29 points and 10 assists, and Oklahoma City held off a late rally by Los Angeles in a matchup of two of the West's best teams.

Serge Ibaka added 16 points as the Thunder ended a three-game road skid, bouncing back less than 48 hours after losing at Denver. They also completed a season sweep of Los Angeles, which is chasing Oklahoma City and NBA-best San Antonio out West.

Chris Paul scored 26 points, and Blake Griffin and Jamal Crawford added 20 apiece for the Clippers, whose four-game winning streak ended with their third loss to the Thunder this season.

Lakers 99, Hawks 98

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 11 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and hit the go-ahead layup with 9 seconds left, leading the Lakers back to .500

for the first time in more than two months.

Steve Blake stole Josh Smith's final pass in the waning seconds for the Lakers (30-30), who blew a 16-point lead in the second half before Bryant scored their last six points.

After Bryant scored the Lakers' final basket while driving directly at Smith, Blake swiped Smith's desperation pass from underneath Los Angeles' basket. Bryant threw the ball high in the air to run out the clock on Los Angeles' seventh straight home victory over the Hawks since 2006.

Al Horford scored 24 points and Smith had 19 for the Hawks.

Pacers 97, Bulls 92

In Indianapolis, David West scored 31 points and George Hill added 21, leading Indiana past Chicago in a Central Division showdown.

The Pacers (38-22) have won seven of their last eight games, going 6-1 since the All-Star break, and hold a four-game lead over second-place Chicago.

The Bulls were led by Marco Belinelli and Jimmy Butler, who each had 20 points for a team that was missing four important players with injuries. Chicago fell behind late in the first quarter and spent most of the rest of the game trying to play catch-up.

The Bulls finally tied the score at 72 on Luol Deng's 8-footer early in the fourth and again at 80 when Butler made two free throws with 7:04 left.

Spurs 114, Pistons 75

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 17 points, Tim Duncan had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio routed Detroit despite playing without All-Star point guard Tony Parker.

Danny Green added 16 points and Kawhi Leonard had 14 for the Spurs (47-14), who rolled to their most lopsided victory of the season in their first game since Parker was injured.

Greg Monroe scored 16 points and Jose Calderon 14 for Detroit, which has lost five of six.

The Spurs had 35 assists on 45 field goals. Making his first start of the season, Cory Joseph had eight points, four assists and one turnover in place of Parker, who sprained his left ankle in Friday's win over Sacramento and is expected to miss about a month.

Rockets 136, Mavericks 103

In Houston, Chandler Parsons scored a career-high 32 points on 12-for-13 shooting and Houston snapped a nine-game losing streak to Dallas.

Jeremy Lin and James Harden added 21 points apiece, and Lin had nine assists for the Rockets.

O.J. Mayo scored 18 points and Shawn Marion had 14 to lead the Mavericks, who dropped six games behind

Houston for the No. 8 spot in the Western Conference.

Houston broke open a close game in the third quarter, outscoring Dallas 44-17. The Rockets hit 14 of 20 shots and converted six Mavericks turnovers into 14 points.

Grizzlies 108, Magic 82

In Orlando, Fla., Tayshaun Prince had 14 points and Marc Gasol added 12 points and 11 assists as Memphis cruised to a victory over Orlando.

The Grizzlies, who have won nine of their last 10 games, led by as many as 32 points and had six players in double figures. It was their first of five straight games against teams with losing records.

Memphis played without forward Zach Randolph, who rested the left ankle he sprained in last Friday's loss to Miami.

Arron Afflalo and E'Twaun Moore each scored 12 points to lead a Magic team that has lost 17 of 19 on its home floor. Orlando is 4-31 since Dec. 20.

Wizards 90, 76ers 87

In Washington, John Wall scored the final six points of the game after teammate Bradley Beal left the court with an apparent injury, leading Washington past Philadelphia.

Beal went down with a sprained ankle with 2:08 left in the fourth quarter. After being attended to by a trainer, he was carried off the court and through the tunnel by two teammates, keeping weight completely off both his legs.

Wall scored the next four points to give the Wizards an 88-87 lead, blocked Evan Turner's shot with 53 seconds left and added a jumper with 4.4 seconds left.

Wall finished with 16 points and six assists as the Wizards snapped a two-game skid and avoided their longest slide in the last month.

Dorell Wright scored 15 points to lead the 76ers, who have lost eight of nine.

Kings 119, Bobcats 83

In Sacramento, Calif., John Salmons scored 22 points and Jason Thompson had 18 points and 14 rebounds to lead Sacramento over slumping Charlotte.

Marcus Thornton also scored 18 points for the Kings, who made 13 3-pointers in halting a stretch of seven losses in eight games. DeMarcus Cousins had 14 points, Tyreke Evans added 13 and Isaiah Thomas had 10 points and seven assists.

The Kings closed the first half with nine straight points, then opened the third quarter with a 10-0 run to extend their lead to 64-40. The advantage exceeded 40 points several times in the second half and was Sacramento's most lopsided victory this season.

Byron Mullens and Gerald Henderson each scored 12 points for the Bobcats. Charlotte, which has lost five straight, was outbounded 60-31 and shot 36 percent.

Thompson wins Honda for 1st tour title

The Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Michael Thompson's dream of winning his first PGA Tour event was walking up the final fairway with a big lead and very little stress.

The reality was much different Sunday in the Honda Classic.

He had a one-shot lead as he stood in the 18th fairway, some 240 yards from the flag with trouble in the way in the shape of large lake. The motto from his golf team at Alabama was to "finish strong," and Thompson did just that.

Instead of laying up, he drilled a 5-wood into the bunker left of the green, setting up a simple sand shot and a birdie he didn't even need. He closed with a 1-under 69, one of only five rounds under par on a punishing day at PGA National to finally become a PGA Tour winner.

"That for me kind of sealed the deal," Thompson said. "It allowed me to walk up the fairway and enjoy the experience, see the crowd and ... just finish strong."

The start wasn't bad, either.

Thompson holed a 50-foot eagle putt on the third hole, relied on a superb short game around the toughest part of the golf course to build a four-shot lead, and hung on for a two-shot win over Geoff Ogilvy that takes him places he always wanted to be.

He gets into his first World Golf Championship next week at Doral, and qualifies for two more WGCs this year at Firestone and in Shanghai. He's in the PGA Championship, gets to start next year in Hawaii and earned a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

And to think just two weeks ago he was so down after a 78-80 performance at Riviera that he wondered if he would ever make another cut.

"This week was magical," Thompson said. "Just had a groove and kept feeling it."

It turned out to be a big week for Ogilvy, too.

The former U.S. Open champion missed his past four cuts and had plunged to No. 79 in the world ranking. He already missed the Match Play Championship and was ready to miss another WGC next week at Doral until putting together four solid rounds.

He chipped in for birdie behind the 16th green and two-putted for birdie on the 18th for a 69 to finish alone in second, moving him up to No. 47 to get into Doral.

"I kind of penciled in a week off," Ogilvy said.

"So it's nice, and it gets me back in the mix for the Masters."

Ogilvy has to stay in the top 50 by the end of the month to return to Augusta National. For now, he has smaller problems—he only packed enough for this week.

"I'm going to have to go do some laundry," Ogilvy said. "I haven't got a hotel room for tonight.

But half the tour lives in this area, so I'm sure I can find somewhere to stay."

Luke Guthrie, tied with Thompson for the 54-hole lead, fell behind with a bogey on the second hole and closed with a 73 to finish third.

Tiger Woods was never in the picture. He started the final round eight

shots behind, and whatever hopes he had of a rally ended on the sixth hole when he hit his drive so far to the right that the ball was never found.

Woods took double bogey, and only an eagle on the final hole kept the damage to a minimum. He closed with a 74 - his first time since the Masters last year that he failed to break par in any round of a 72-hole tournament—and tied for 37th.

It was the second straight year Woods closed with an eagle at PGA National—the difference was last year, it gave him a 62 and a tie for second.

"I think I passed 62 somewhere around 12," Woods said.

Despite a bogey on the final hole, Erik Compton had a 70 and was part of the five-way tie for fourth. Compton, who already has had two heart transplants, earned his first top-10 finish on the PGA Tour.

Thompson finished at 9-under 271, a strong performance considering the difficult course and the weekend wind. He was among three players who never shot over par at PGA National.

"You don't have to do much wrong to be making a bogey out there, so it's pretty impressive," Ogilvy said of Thompson's final round. "It's a great effort, really. As you say by the rest of the scores, it's a very hard golf course and it seems to get progressively harder in some ways. There's a disaster waiting everywhere.

"There's a lot of golf courses on tour that it might be easy to close out a golf tournament—or easier—but this is not one of them."

AP
Michael Thompson holds the trophy after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 3, 2013 in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Thompson was at his best in the middle part of the final round.

He hit a tough chip off the pine straw to 3 feet for par on the 10th, and then hit flawless chips for easy par on the 11th and 14th holes to build a four-shot lead. Not even the late run by Ogilvy was enough to stop him.

"This is everything," Thompson said. "This is a childhood dream come true. I've dreamed of playing out here since I was 7 years old and to win, it's just unbelievable. I just can't put it into words. The whole day was awesome."

It was a mess for Woods.

He lost two balls in a span of eight holes (the other one in the third round Saturday) for what he believes is the first time in his career. He hit into the water on the 11th for another double bogey, and drove into the water on the 16th.

"I just made too many penalties this week," Woods said. "Today is a perfect example. I didn't play that poorly. I had two water balls and a lost ball. Take those away, and I missed two short birdie putts, and it was actually a decent score. So just got to clean up my rounds."

The final round was never going to be easy with the wind whipping on PGA National, and it showed. Of those who finished before the leaders even teed off, only two players managed to break par. Scoring was so difficult that Lucas Glover played the weekend in 2-over par and still tied for fourth.

"You don't move up very often—on tour—over par on the weekend, except for a place like this," Glover said.

Guthrie, who fell behind for good with a bogey on the second hole, did his best to stay in range until hitting his tee shot out of bounds on the 14th for a double bogey. From there, it was only a battle for second place.

Everyone else was long gone.

Westwood failed to save par on consecutive holes on the front nine and could never catch up. Charles Howell III, who started the day three shots behind and needed a win to get to the Masters in his hometown, fell apart on the back nine with a 41 and closed with a 78. Rickie Fowler made three bogeys on the first six holes and was never a factor.

Dennis Rodman: NKorea leader wants Obama to call

WASHINGTON (AP)—Call me? Maybe?

North Korea's young leader has riled the U.S. with recent nuclear tests, but Kim Jong Un doesn't really want war with the superpower, just a call from President Barack Obama to chat about their shared love of basketball, according to ersatz diplomat Dennis Rodman, the ex-NBA star just back from an improbable visit to the reclusive communist country.

"He loves basketball. ... I said Obama loves basketball. Let's start there" as a way to warm up relations between U.S. and North Korea, Rodman told ABC's "This Week."

"He asked me to give Obama something to say and do one thing. He wants Obama to do one thing, call him," said Rodman, who called the authoritarian leader an "awesome guy" during his trip. The State Department criticized North Korea last week for "wining and dining" Rodman while its own people go hungry.

Rodman also said Kim told him, "I don't want to do war. I don't want to do war."

Yet in January, after the U.N. Security Council voted to condemn the North's successful rocket launch in December and expand penalties against Kim's government, his National Defense Commission said in a statement that "settling accounts with the U.S. needs to be done with force, not with words." The statement also promised "a new phase of the anti-U.S. struggle that has lasted century after century."

North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the three-year Korean War, which ended in a truce in 1953. The foes technically remain at war. They never signed a peace treaty and do not have diplomatic relations.

Rodman was the highest-profile American to meet Kim since Kim inherited power from father Kim Jong Il in 2011. He traveled to the secretive state with the Harlem Globetrotters team for a new HBO series produced

by New York-based VICE television.

The visit took place amid rising tensions between the countries.

North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test two weeks ago, making clear the provocative act was



AP
In this Sunday March 3, 2013, photo provided by ABC television "This Week" host George Stephanopoulos, left, interviews former NBA star Dennis Rodman, just back from a visit with North Korea's young leader Kim Jong Un, in studio in New York.

a warning to the United States to drop what it considers a "hostile" policy toward the North.

Rodman said he was aware of North Korea's human rights record, which the State Department has characterized as one of the worst in the world, but said he wasn't apologizing for Kim.

"He's a good guy to me," Rodman said, adding, that "as a person to person, he's my friend. I don't condone what he does."

Basketball is popular in North Korea, and Thursday's exhibition game with two Americans playing on each team alongside North Koreans ended in a 110-110 tie. Following the game Kim threw an "epic feast" for the group, plying them with food and drinks and making round after round of toasts.

Rodman's trip was the second attention-grabbing American visit this year to North Korea. Google's executive chairman, Eric Schmidt, made a four-day trip in January, but did not meet Kim.

Rodman said he planned to go back to North Korea to "find out more what's really going on."

Pacific Stars, ICS Shooters nip opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

DLX BASKETBALL
Pacific Stars gained its third straight victory after pulling off a come-from-behind 74-70 win over SSFM in Division A of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Pacific Stars rallied from a 9-point deficit in the last 5:24 of the fourth quarter to extend its streak after dropping its first three games, while SSFM has lost two in a row and matched the former's 3-3 slate.

SSFM boosted its chance of returning to the win column after taking a 66-57 lead behind the combined 12 points of Leo Galarse and Don Brennan in the first half of the final canto. However, SSFM collapsed in the homestretch, scoring only one field goal and two free throws.

Pacific Stars capitalized on SSFM's breakdown, dropping a 13-2 bomb capped by Jun Estolas' back-to-back fastbreak layups that gave the former the lead, 70-68, for the first time since the opening quarter. SSFM momentarily tied the match off Galarse's pair of charities, 70-70, with less than a minute left in the game, but Alex Lauron answered with his own two charities to bring the Pacific Stars back on top.

Rocyl Ritual then opted for a long shot on SSFM's next offensive set and missed and Pacific Stars went for another fastbreak play, but Lauron failed to make the basket. However, Lauron got the offensive rebound and nailed the putback to give Pacific Stars more cushion, 74-70, 18 second remaining on the clock.

Three more misses from downtown sealed SSFM's doom.

Lauron led Pacific Stars' come-from-behind victory with his 20 points, while Estolas chipped in 15, making 6 of them in the last five minutes of the match. Zack Babauta and Zack Diaz also finished in twin digits with 13 and 10, respectively.

Galarse top-scored for SSFM with his 28 points, while Brennan added 22. Pacific Stars had only six players available for the game, missing big men Jack Lizama and Eric Dela Rosa and shooter John Darag.

ICS Shooters 69, Gualo Rai 65

In the Division B duel, the ICS Shooters (3-3) outclassed Gualo Rai (3-4).

Webby Guntar provided a steady offense for the ICS Shooters in the first three quarters, while Victor Mallari closed it out for the team, drilling 7 of his 9 markers in the fourth canto. His two free throws and Guntar's field goal

iced it for the ICS Shooters. Guntar went on to finish with 18 points, while Resty Corotan chipped in 12.

Joseph Galulu had 15 for Gualo Rai, drilling 10 of them in the first period to put his team in the driver's seat, 26-20. However, Gualo Rai lost the lead, as its offense dwindled in the last three quarters.

Gualo Rai scored only 12 points in the second canto against the ICS Shooters' 21, allowing the latter to grab the upper hand at halftime, 41-38. The ICS Shooters then protected the lead with Guntar and Mallari teaming up in the second half.

FRIDAY

ICS Shooters 69 – Guntar 18, Corotan 12, Tala 10, Mallari 9, Enriquez 8, David 7, R. Lansang 2.

Gualo Rai 65 – Galulu 15, Ybanez 12, Factor 12, Yap 8, Capuyon 6, Deleon Guerrero 4, Espinosa 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-26, 41-38, 53-49, 69-65.

SATURDAY

Pacific Stars 74 – Lauron 20, Estolas 15, Babauta 13, Diaz 10, Gomez 6, Tenorio 6.

SSFM 70 – Galarse 28, Brennan 22, Pantaleon 10, Ritual 6, Tobias 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-10, 29-32, 51-54, 74-70.

RENATA

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of the United Kingdom, Carina Wasle of Austria, and former Saipan pro and now Guam-based Mieko Carey.

Slack, Parker, and Wasle also competed in XTERRA Philippines last week and with Bucher beating them after placing second to Lesley Paterson, the Swiss pro admitted she will be facing a tougher competition as her XTERRA Saipan foes will surely

go for vengeance.

"Sure, it will be hard. But I don't race against somebody, I'm racing against myself.

Jacqui is a great athlete, if she will beat me, then she is stronger and deserve to win the race. The same goes for other pros," said Bucher, who started training in Australia in January and won an MTB duathlon and 100K MTB race and placed second in a 10K run in the Land Down Under.

Bucher timed in at 2:54:56 in last

year's XTERRA Saipan, beating Slack by about 10 minutes after the latter submitted 3:04:46. Wasle managed to finish at third with a time of 3:05:53 despite a freak bike crash, while Parker missed last year's race.

Parker went on to finish third in last week's XTERRA Philippines, placing ahead of Slack, who dropped to fourth due to bike problems. Wasle also had troubles with her and unfortunately, she did not finish the race in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, the group showed up when it counted and marched off with a lopsided victory in the end.

They advanced to the finals on Friday after defeating the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus, 1-0, in a penalty shootout and then laid the smack down on its southern rivals in Saturday's main event. SSHS routed MHS 2, 5-0, in the other playoff match.

The second-ranked Lady Rays kept the eventual champs at bay for about 30 minutes until Lizardo broke the ice with a goal at the 31:46 mark of regulation.

Then Johnson struck again five minutes later at 37:20 to give the Lady Dolphins a 2-0 advantage at halftime.

Lizardo bagged a second goal early

the over 60 class.

In the half marathon, Allen successfully defended her women's crown after cutting the tape at the 1:48:00 mark. The 30-year-old runner also eclipsed her 2012 winning time (1:50:45) and defeated four Japanese bets and fellow Saipan entry Elaine Kwok (1:53:51), who came in at fifth.

Charlie Epperson completed a Saipan sweep in the half marathon after posting 1:21:09, more than five minutes ahead of Japan's Yoshimura Yusuke. Sean Smith and Ronald Villafra were the two other Saipan runners to make it to the Top 6 after recording 1:30:31 and 1:33:41, respectively.

Mother and son Sakiko and Seiya Eda led the age group winners in the half marathon with the former clinching top honors in the 40 to 49 age group

after clocking in at 2:00:01 and the latter ruling the 15 to 19 division after logging 1:49:11.

Other age group top finishers from Saipan were Jessy James (30 to 29/1:34:00), Manny Aaron (40 to 49/1:37:21), and Pipit Ball (20 to 29/1:58:49). The half marathon course started at AMP with runners heading to as far as Pacific Islands Club and back to AMP.

In the marathon, barefoot runner Chang Whan Jang prevailed in the over 60 division completing the race from AMP up to Marianas Resort in the north and Pacific Islands Club in the south and back to the starting line in 3:51:23.

Roy Ortizo did the longest race last weekend and won 50K's 50 to 59 top honors after submitting 5:25:02.

Mt. Carmel to hold golf tourney on May 18

Mount Carmel School announced that it will hold its 10th Annual Golf Tournament on May 18 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Golf tournament director and 1983 AlumKnight Ben Babauta made the announcement, noting that "past tournaments have tremendously benefited the school in defraying its operational costs and funding its facilities."

As a graduate of the school, Babauta is enthusiastic about the tournament, especially during the school's 60th anniversary. "With our collective efforts, we can ensure that Mount Carmel School continues its legacy of providing quality learning experiences for all."



School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero expressed his appreciation to Babauta for his support.

"Mr. Babauta has always been a staunch supporter of the school, as a graduate and a parent who sent his own kids to the school. His help with this tournament is yet another example of the school's AlumKnights helping make a difference," Deleon Guerrero said.

More information on the golf tournament will be released in weeks to come. For more information, email the school's business manager at keikoyamagata74@yahoo.com or the president at president.mcs@pticom.com. (PR)

THREE

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II taking on the Jets with a Big League double feature set to go on at Tan Ko Field starting at 5pm with the Paradise Island Animal Hospital Padres squaring off against the IT&E Fielders followed by the Braves versus the Rays at 6:30pm.

SATURDAY SENIOR DIVISION Enforcers 12, Lions 4

The Enforcers pushed ahead, 4-0, in the first innings off a leadoff walk followed by two hits and a costly error. Three runs scored off an error, a passed ball, and a wild pitch.

Winning pitcher Payton Lizama was steady on the hump for the first four innings as his teammates added a run in the third off an error and two more in the fourth inning off a pair of back-to-back hits by Franklin Lizama and P.J. Sablan. The latter pair came home off a wild pitch and a passed ball, respectively.

The Enforcers then threatened an early ending in the fifth inning and went ahead, 9-0, off an early error followed by a pair of smashes by Jose Lizama and Oscar Stefano.

The Lions finally came out of hibernation in the bottom frame and managed to move around three runs off two hits and two walks that led to a pitching change.

Justin Santos bagged an RBI in the exchange and Catalina Cruz added the final run though the Enforcers erased it with three runs in the last inning of regulation, securing a sound victory.

Payton Lizama received the win, giving up one earned run off two hits and five walks with a strikeout.

Darion Jones secured the save with little fuss and batted 3-for-4 at the plate for two runs. Lions' Dela Cruz swung 2-for-3 for a run and two stolen bases.

TUESDAY BIG DIVISION Braves 15, Enforcers 1

Braves' winning pitcher Adolfo Roppel dealt four scoreless innings before giving up his lone earned run in the fifth inning.

Despite the slight blemish it was a strong showing by the young hurler that may have inspired his teammates to drop the hammer on their opponents at the plate.

After going three up and three down to start the match, the Braves strung up six runs in the second inning off five hits, which included back to back doubles by Robert Tudela and Joe Krungle, scoring Greg Iskawa, Jeremy Atalig, and the former.

The latter scored off an error after which the top of the order came

through the second time around with an RBI double by Peter Lieto and an RBI base smash by Lamar Iguel.

With Roppel in cruise control the Braves went on to add a run in the third inning off an error and marched to a 13-0 margin in the top of the fourth with another handful of hits that logged an RBI double for Iguel and an RBI single for Krungle. Atalig was also awarded with an RBI and Tudela stole home in the mix.

The Braves never looked back as Lieto added the final touches with an RBI triple and scored off a wild pitch before receiving the nod.

He batted 3-for-4 for two RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base. Tudela also went 3-for-4 for an RBI, three runs, and three stolen bases.

Roppel gave up four hits, two walks, and two hit by pitches with eight strikeouts through five innings.

THURSDAY Ol'Aces 16, Rays 3

Rays' Jerome Reyes brought around a pair of leadoff walks in the first inning with a double, but the runs ran dry for the group aside from its final whimper in the fifth inning.

It was actually somewhat of a close game for the first three frames as the Ol'Aces led it, 5-2, with a three-run answer in the bottom portion of the opening exchange and two more to close the second inning.

Jared Sablan lifted a sacrifice fly that scored Lancaster Secharmidal and Jake Flores followed with an RBI single that plated Jun Rabauliman. Then two batters later, Jake Santos singled in Flores. The Ol'Aces' damage in the second inning came due to errors.

After a quiet third inning, the Ol'Aces started the fourth at the top of the order and discharged a seven-hit explosion for 10 runs.

Second batter Jun Rabauliman belted an RBI triple, Jonah Fores bagged a sacrifice fly, Dave Hosono jacked a two-RBI double, and the team went on to load the bases before topping off the onslaught with a three-RBI double by Rabauliman, a triple by Sablan, and a two-RBI double by Jake Flores.

Ol'Aces reliever Jonah Flores received the win and the save. He stepped to the hump in with one out in the third inning and gave up an unearned run off one hit and two walks with a strikeout and four put-outs through 2 1/3 innings.

Rabauliman batted 3-for-4 for four RBIs and three runs. Sablan swung 3-for-4 for an RBI, three runs, and a stolen base, while Jake Flores went 2-for-3 for three RBIs, two runs, a base on balls, and a hit-by-pitch. Secharmidal willed three base on balls and went 1-for-1 for an RBI and four runs.

25 SAIPAN

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Three Japanese runners rounded out the Top 6.

In the men's division, Steven Pixley claimed third place with his 47:00, while fellow Saipan runner Daisuke Matsuo came in at sixth with a time of 49:18. Yonekura Takao of Japan topped the division with his 45:23.

In the age group category, Takumi Sugie (49:41) won the U14 division; Justin Poon (55:38) led in the U18; Malika Miyawaki (1:11:46) ruled the girls U14; Suhui Lee (56:52) prevailed in the women's 20 to 29; Tomoko Nishio (59:56) reigned in the women's 40 to 49; Tomomi Kambe (57:43) triumphed in the women's 50 to 59; and Suzanne Kindel (1:01:06) emerged victorious in

2013 Saipan Marathon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Runners cruise along Beach Road early Saturday morning during the 2013 Saipan Marathon.



Half marathon participants head out to the course.



Kathy Ruszala smiles for the camera, as she leads a small group of runners cruising along Beach Road.



Saipan's Jessie James and Ketson "Jack" Kabirieli warm up before the race.



A young runner leads four Japanese female runners.



A group of runners heads to the finish line.



Runners sprint to the finish line.



"Saipan Da" and a female runner near the finish line.



Ben Babauta nears completion of the half marathon.



A man takes a photo of Pipit Ball near the finish line.



**Thompson
wins Honda for
1st tour title**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Heat rally past
Knicks, win
14th straight**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Renata shoots for 8th championship

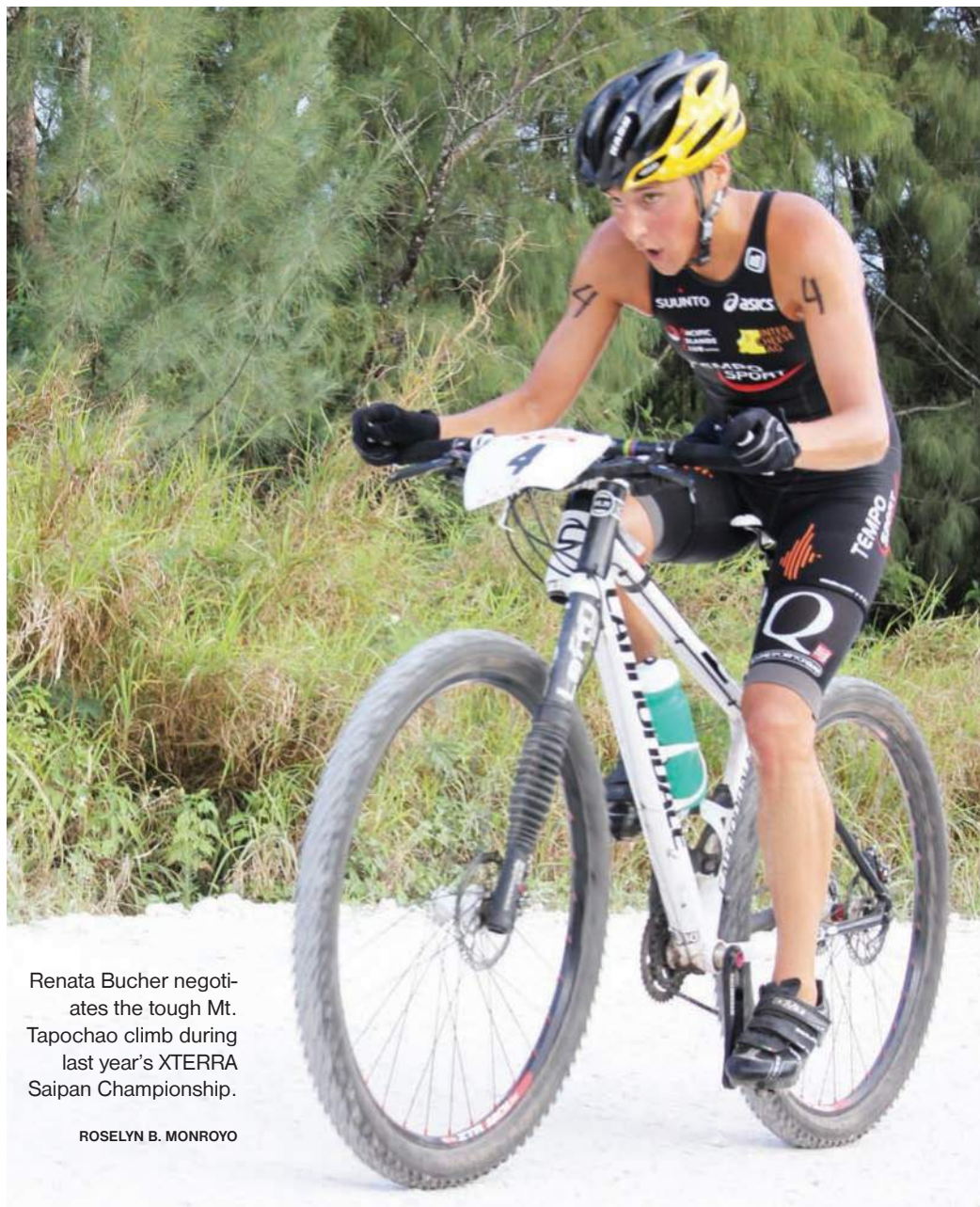
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swiss pro Renata Bucher is back for the race she aims to win every year—the XTERRA Saipan Championship.

The 35-year-old triathlete, who arrived on Saipan last Sunday after competing in XTERRA Philippines, won XTERRA Saipan from 2005 to 2010 and last year. Her unprecedented seven victories in XTERRA's Crown Jewel may be enough for some, but not for the Luzern native, who is motivated to capitalize on every chance she gets on Saipan.

"XTERRA Saipan means a lot to me. I told myself eight years ago that I will try to get back to my favorite island and win the race as long as I am doing XTERRA. 'Everything started on Saipan. It was a beginning of a new life, a good one. I would not be where I am right now if I did not buy a ticket to go to the island I had no idea where is located,' Bucher said.

"Whenever I'm traveling, racing, training, and feeling sad or needing motivation to keep going, thinking of you and this small island helps me a lot.



Renata Bucher negotiates the tough Mt. Tapochao climb during last year's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thank you for having me for so many years," added Bucher, who will be defending her women's title this Saturday against fellow XTERRA Saipan returnees Jacqui Slack and Daz Parker

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mother and daughter Ayumi, left, and Conatsu Kaga, cross the finish line of the 10K race in last Saturday's Saipan Marathon.

25 Saipan runners make winners' list

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Noriko Jim and Terra Allen led more than 20

Saipan runners who made it to the winners circle in last Saturday's 2013 Saipan Marathon.

Jim topped the women's 10K race for the fifth straight time after completing the event in 44:55. The 42-year-old runner also recorded the

fastest time in the 10K race that started at the American Memorial Park with runners heading north along Beach Road before making a turn near Hakubotan and returning to AMP.

Joining Jim in the Top 6 overall ranking in the 10K race were mother and daughter Ayumi and Conatsu Kaga, who crossed the finish line together and clocked in at 55:00 to tie for fourth to fifth place.

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Lady Dolphins complete 5-peat in soccer

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Marianas High School Lady Dolphins raised their fifth consecutive title following a 5-0 run-away victory over the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays in Saturday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls varsity soccer championship at the Oleai Sports Complex Track & Field.

The veteran team is led by seniors Clarisse Cayabyab, Stephanie Jo Camacho, Allene Evallar, Melody Johnson, Charlene Lizardo, Kaiza Lucido, Alodia Lumasag, Phoebe Nekaifes, and Lea Teodoro with juniors Danica Chan and Jeralyn Castillo, sophomore Patrishia Echavez, and freshman Alexandria Var-

See **LADY** on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Marianas High School Lady Dolphins pose with the championship trophy after winning the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2013 girls varsity soccer championship over the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Three blowout wins in Senior, Big leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Senior League's DARE Program Enforcers and the Big League's Natibu Sports Association Braves and Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces all reigned supreme as the Saipan Little League's 2013 season continued last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Braves routed the Enforcers, 15-1, last Tuesday; the Ol'Aces dominated Rachel Q. Reyes' Rays, 16-3, in five on Thursday; and the Senior League's Enforcers defeated Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's Kagman Lions, 12-4, on Saturday.

Major League action continues tomorrow at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Ballfield at 4pm with Attorney Vince Torres' Comets

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

DARE Program Enforcers' Payton Lizama looks over to first base as he fields a grounder at short in their Senior League game against Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's Kagman Lions last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.